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ABSTRACT

The Florida Library History Project (FLHP) began in January 1998. Letters requesting histories were sent to all public libraries in Florida with follow-up letters sent after an initial response was received from the libraries. E-mail messages were sent out to FL-LIB listservs encouraging participation in the project. A poster session was presented by Catherine Jasper at the 1998 Florida Library Association (FLA) Annual Conference, an event that marked FLA's 75th anniversary. At the end of this funding period, 89 library systems and organizations had provided histories. These have been compiled and are reproduced in this volume as submitted by participating libraries. Highlights include library founding, collections, services, budgets and expenditures, personnel, funding, survey results, technology, and developments. (AEF)

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The Florida Library History Project

A Project of the
University of South Florida,
School of Library and Information Science,
Research Group
and
The University of South Florida,
Tampa Campus Library,
Special Collections Department

August 1998

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Introduction

The Florida Library History Project (FLHP) was funded by the University of South Florida (USF), School of Library and Information Science from January-July 1998. Catherine Jasper was the Project Coordinator, and Kathleen de la Peña McCook served as the Project Advisor. Charlie Parker of the Florida State Library served as liaison to the State Library. The USF, Tampa Campus Library provided funds to archive histories and to post library histories on a webpage at **http://www.lib.usf.edu/spccoll/guide/f/flibhist/guide.html**. Tom Kemp, Head of the Special Collections Department, oversaw this part of the project. Richard Bernardy acted as webmaster.

Letters requesting histories were sent to all public libraries in Florida in January 1998. (Copy in Appendix.) Follow-up letters were sent after an initial response was received from the libraries. E-mail messages were sent out to FL-LIB listservs encouraging participation in the project. A poster session was presented by Catherine Jasper at the 1998 Florida Library Association (FLA) Annual Conference, an event that marked FLA's 75th anniversary. A flyer was developed (copy in Appendix) and mailed making one more request for participation.

At the end of the funding period, eighty-nine library systems and organizations had provided histories. These have been compiled and are reproduced in this volume as submitted by participating libraries. It is hoped that additional libraries may submit their histories to the USF, Tampa Campus Library for archiving and webpage mounting in the future.

At the close date of the grant the final project consisting of the histories of seventy-one public libraries is submitted to the State Library in honor of the FLA's 75th anniversary.

We appreciate the assistance of the many people whose help made this project a success.

Alachua County Library

1903 The Twentieth Century Club, forerunner of the Gainesville Women's Club, was organized as a literary club, established a library and issued a public call June 2, 1903 for donations of books and money.

1905 On January 22, 1905 Nora Norton announced the establishment of the Gainesville Circulating Library, a private subscription library located in the office of the Gainesville Sewing Machine Company. Charges were $5.00 for a year's access to the collection or $1.50 to join for a year and 2 cents a day fee for each book borrowed.

On March 28, 1905 the Twentieth Century Club announced the opening of its library with nearly 200 donated books in the Miller Law Exchange. It was also a subscription library, charging $2.00 per year for membership.

1906 On January 8, 1906 the Gainesville Public Library opened its doors on West Liberty Street; its hours were 2:00-5:00 pm Monday through Saturday. Still a subscription Library, costing $2.00 a year to join, the Twentieth Century Club had donated its collection to the newly formed Library Association. The collection also included the library of the East Florida Seminary and totalled nearly 800 volumes. In March Mr. C. W. Chase purchased Miss Nora Norton's circulating library 200 volumes and donated them to the Public Library.

1907 By January 25, 1907 the library collection totaled 1,158 volumes. To fund the library, the Library Association held musical entertainments and established a Women's Exchange for the sale of ladies' "fancy work."

1907-1912 The Gainesville Public Library was moved several times, ending up in the Thrasher Building, 201 East Main Street. The Library's collection numbered 1600 volumes, and the hours were 3:30-5:30pm Monday through Saturday.

1914 The Public Library was moved from 201 East Main Street to a small building, formerly a barber shop and pool room, owned by Attorney B. A. Thrasher between his law offices and Holy Trinity Church. The annual subscription fee was still $2.00. Library hours were 2:30-5:00pm Monday through Saturday.

1915 The Library Association approached the City Council and Carnegie Corporation to build a free public library. To acquire the money for a Carnegie building, the City of Gainesville had to provide a suitable site and obligate $1,000 per year in operating funds for the library.

February 6, 1915 - Ordinance No. 315 was adopted by the City of Gainesville Council deeding the property at 419 East University Avenue to the City for the Library building.

July 15, 1915 - Ordinance No. 318 was adopted by the City Council calling for a referendum and special election under state law to provide funding of $1,000 a year for the operation of the Public Library. This ordinance provided for a tax of up to one-third of one mill on property and established a Library Board to consist of five businessmen elected by the City Council to supervise the expenditure of these funds and oversee the operation of the Library.

October 5, 1915 - the Library election was carried by a good majority. The vote was: for the library, 200; against the library, 85; spoiled votes, 7. There were approximately 6,522 residents of Gainesville in 1915, but, of course, only men could vote.

October 13, 1915 - Ordinance No. 323 established the Gainesville Public Library and the City Council elected five member Library Board consisting of Dr. A. A. Murphree, Captain C. R. Layton, Hon. W. M. Pepper, Hon. George P. Morris, and Dr. H. W. Cox.

1916 A Library Benefit Carnival was held on February 18, 1916 to provide funding for the operation of the Library.

April 10, 1916 - Resolution No. 152 was adopted by the City Council accepting the contract with the Carnegie Corporation to receive $10,000 to build the Library and pledging $1,000 per year annual maintenance support.

1916-1917 There were several changes in the choice of the architect, and there were resultant delays in the completion of the Library Building. In 1917 Mrs. Jessie S. White was appointed Librarian.

1918 February 25, 1918 - The Gainesville Public Library, 419 East University Avenue, was opened to the public. It was at last a free library, requiring only that the public register their name and address to receive a card. Contributions of books, especially children's books, and monetary donations were still encouraged, with large donors being thanked in the newspaper.

The new building brought an increase in use. In June 1918, 1,149 books were checked out, and there were 664 registered borrowers. In March 1918, story hours for children were introduced. They were offered on Saturday afternoon, 4:00pm, and were conducted by a volunteer, Mrs. E. C. Beck, who taught a course at the University on storytelling.

In its first ten months the Library circulated 10,788 books to 991 registered borrowers. At the end of 1918 there were 1,588 volumes in the collection.

1920 By February 1920, the book collection numbered 2,360 volumes and was declared "entirely inadequate" for the citizens of Gainesville. In the year ending June 1, 1920, 18,343 books had been checked out.

1921 In May 1921, Mrs. Jessie White, Librarian, spoke to the Chamber of Commerce about the needs of the Library, and the Chamber directors appointed a committee to visit the City Council in the interest of a larger appropriation for the Gainesville Public Library.

1923 By the end of 1923 the Gainesville Public Library, six years old, had grown to a collection of 4,101 books, 4,083 registered borrowers and a circulation of about 20,000 loans per year.

1924 In 1924 there were 5,189 volumes, 4,600 registered borrowers and an annual circulation of 24,069.

1925 Miss Mary B. Swinney was named Librarian at Mrs. White's retirement.

1927 Commission-Manager form of government was adopted by Gainesville.

In 1927 the Library budget was $8,750; the collection numbered 8,041; and circulation was about 50,000.

1928 Mrs. C. A. "Annie" Pound was first appointed to the Library Board. She was to serve a record of more than 40 years.

1929 The Gainesville Public Library building, now 11 years old, was rearranged and renovated to handle the steadily increasing use. Miss Mable Blackburn was hired as an assistant to Miss Swinney. The Library also extended service to Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00pm and Sunday 2:00 to 5:00pm.

1930 In the first 6 months of 1930 the Library circulated 38,868 volumes and had a collection of 12,575 volumes. High Schools did not yet have libraries, and students were encouraged to use the Gainesville Public Library for their studies. The Library served these students, whether or not residents of Gainesville, but for the first time suggested that the County should contribute to the library funding.

1936 The city financed further improvements to the library building. Annual circulation in 1936 was 72,951 books.

1940 Circulation in 1940 was 72,820 books, and Gainesville's population was 16,000 people.

1941 The University of Florida's General Extension Division provided books to schools all around the state through a project financed by the Florida Women's Auxiliary of the American Legion.

1943 According to Librarian Mary B. Swinney's annual report in August, the war in Europe reduced reading in Gainesville: "Adults read less, preoccupied as they are with Red Cross or other war work and with the difficulties of business and housekeeping under war conditions. Lack of transportation makes it difficult for many readers to get to the library." The City's budget for the library was $4,800. There were 10,588 volumes in the collection and circulation was 68,917, quite a drop from 1940's use.

1945 Miss Mabel Blackwell, who had been assistant since 1929, was named Librarian after Miss Swinney fell into a hole in the library floor and broke her hip.

In 1945 total circulation was still dropping, down to 49,462 books that year.

1949 Best sellers popular with Gainesville citizenry in 1949 included *The Big Fisherman* by Lloyd Douglas, *Crusade in Europe* by Dwight D. Eisenhower, *The Naked and the Dead* by Norman Mailer, and *Dinner at Antoine's* by Frances Parkinson Keyes. A new genre of fiction, western novels, were very popular with men, but Librarian Mabel Blackwell reported that too few westerns were being published to meet the demand.

The city Commission replaced the Library Board, which had governed the library since 1915, with a five member Library Advisory Board to advise the City Manager and Commission. The Library became a department of the City of Gainesville.

1950 Stanley L. West, Director of the University of Florida Libraries and President of the Florida Library Association, presided and hosted the annual meeting of the Florida Library Association in Gainesville. The meeting included the dedication of a new library addition at the University, the presentation by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings of several of her original manuscripts to the University, and a talk by author Frank G. Slaughter.

Use of the Gainesville Public Library continued to decline. In 1949-50 circulation was

57,761 books, and the collection numbered 13,276 volumes. The Library's budget in 1950 was $6,669.

1951 In 1950-51 Public Library circulation was 57,633, and there were 13,956 volumes in the collection.

1952 In April 1952, a group from the Twentieth Century Club, led by Mrs. Ida K. Cresap and Mrs. F. W. Kokomoor, initiated a campaign to upgrade the standards of the Gainesville Public Library, which had been unchanged for 34 years and was inadequate for the city. Mayor-Commissioner Roy Purvis asked the Club and Library Board to prepare a joint study of possible actions and recommendations to the City Commission.

In June, the Library Board and Twentieth Century Club proposed to the City Commission that a $100,000, 4,000 sq. ft. addition be built, that operating costs be increased to $18,000 a year (about four times the existing budget,) and that four full time and two half-time employees be provided so that 12-hour service be offered daily. The Commission committed itself to looking for the needed funding.

In October, the City Commission decided that building additional space for the library would require a bond issue.

1953 By 1953 the Gainesville Public Library collection of 16,000 volumes was well below the 54,000 volumes minimum recommended by the American Library Association for Gainesville, a city of 27,000 people (1950 census). The 1918 Carnegie building was so crowded that books had squeezed out all but two reading tables, made browsing impossible and even crowded the window sills. The Twentieth Century Club continued lobbying for a new library to house at least 50,000 volumes.

Librarian Mabel Blackburn, who had worked at the Library for 24 years, died, and Miss Emily Johnson was Interim Librarian. On September 8th Mrs. Virginia Orbeton Grazier was named Librarian. She was the first librarian with a degree in library science and had worked at the Meriden Public Library in Hartford, Connecticut.

In 1953 the Carver Branch Library for colored people was opened at 536 Northwest 1st Street.

1954 In February the City Commission earmarked $50,000 from revenue certificates for the expansion or replacement of the Library. Architect Myrl Hanes was selected for the project. The Architect, Library Advisory Board, and University Librarian Stanley West urged that the structurally deficient Carnegie building not be remodeled or added to. Due to lack of money to purchase land it was decided to build the new library on the site of the old Carnegie Library on East University Avenue. By November the library was moved to temporary quarters, a home at 411 N. E. 7th Street, while the new building was under construction. Library hours were Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00pm. In December the City Commission approved a low bid of $68,771 for the new library.

Before moving out of the Carnegie building a children's room was finally opened in the basement of the building. The space was needed when the Junior Welfare League donated a collection of 600 books, increasing the children's collection by fifty percent.

Story hour was again offered from January through March, provided by volunteer Mrs. Barbara Webb Larkin, a librarian at the University of Florida. A summer reading program was initiated in the summer of 1954, and 250 children participated.

1955 In 1954 the Gainesville Friends of the Library was organized and had 710 members by November. They began a book sale to raise money for books for the new library.

After two announced opening days for the new library, each postponed, the temporary library was finally closed for the last two weeks of December for the move.

1956 The new 6,000 sq. ft. library at 419 E. University Avenue was finally opened to house approximately 20,000 volumes on January 6, 1956 with 600 people attending the opening. The new library's hours were: Monday, 10am to 5pm and 7 to 9pm; Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 10am to 6pm; and Saturday, 10am to 5pm.

The Library Advisory Board requested a 1956-57 budget of $25,850 for the Gainesville Public Library and Carver Memorial Library (Negro branch).

Library use rose dramatically in the new building; circulation rose from 56,872 books in 1955 to 86,434 books in 1956. The University's College of Education provided volunteers to conduct story hours for children.

1957 By 1957 35% of library users lived outside the Gainesville City limits. On October 1, 1957 the City imposed a $2 per year user fee for non-residents using City libraries. This sparked considerable interest in county-wide library service. On November 13th the Library Advisory Board hosted a workshop on rural library service that included a showing of a bookmobile and a talk by a State Library representative on the availability of federal monies to initiate rural library services via the Library Services Act. City and County Commissioners, presidents of county-wide organizations, and citizens were invited.

Volunteer Mrs. Thelma Ford offered Friday afternoon story hours at Gainesville Public Library, attracting an average of 38 children. In October, she added a Friday afternoon story hour at the Carver Negro Library.

1958 *The Gainesville Daily* Sun added a new column "In the Book" that covered library news of interest and reviewed new books at the Library. On March 19, 1958 the Gainesville Public Library celebrated the first National Library Week with an open house, a puppet show for children, the Friends' book sale, and a bookmobile borrowed from Brooksville. Just two years after the new building was opened, it was already overcrowded, and there was a call in the *Sun* to establish a branch library or acquire land next to the existing library for the needed expansion.

County-wide service to all Alachua County residents began on October 1, 1958 by interlocal agreement between the City and County Commissioners. Two County residents were added to the Gainesville Library Advisory Board per Section 2-31 of the General Code of Ordinances. $15,402 was the County contribution for library services, and $10,517 was provided by the State Library in a Federal Library Services and Construction Act establishment grant.

The residents of High Springs, Micanopy, and Hawthorne began planning library buildings. The North Florida Telephone Company offered the High Springs Parent-Teacher Association the loan of its vacant building for the first branch library outside of Gainesville.

1959 High Springs, Hawthorne, and Micanopy Branch libraries were opened in 1959. The first bookmobile operated for rural residents was dedicated on April 14, 1959.

On September 15, 1959 Bradford County joined Alachua County in regional library service, named the Santa Fe Regional Library. Bradford County had a branch library in Starke and bookmobile service.

Library use was growing dramatically in the late 50's. Circulation in 1956-57 was 91,218 books; in 1957-58, 103,075; and in 1958-59 it rose to 130,215, including the four new branches and the bookmobile. In 1959-60 the budget for Alachua County library services was $55,000: $10,500 of federal funds, $15,483 Alachua County, $30,000 Gainesville. The population of Alachua County was approximately 90,000; there were 10,000 registered borrowers and 27,000 volumes.

1960 In January a 540 sq. ft. building for the Micanopy Branch Library was dedicated. It housed a collection of 3,000 books. A 756 sq. ft. workroom was added to the Gainesville Public Library, which was already overcrowded. The Hawthorne Branch was re-located to the Women's Club Building. In November the Friends of the Library book sale netted $874.40.

1961 After seven and a half years as librarian Virginia Grazier resigned. Miss Beth Daane was appointed head librarian.

1962 Gainesville Public Library's hours were as follows: Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., 10am to 8pm, and Sat., 10am to 5pm. Circulation figures for the month of January were: 12,368 Gainesville, 482 Carver, 139 Hawthorne, 253 High Springs, 119 Micanopy, 1,664 Starke and 2,478 Bookmobile.

On October 1, 1962 Union County joined the Santa Fe Regional Library system on a two year trial basis with a $20,000 Federal LSCA establishment grant and $13,950 of County money.

The Library Advisory Board proposed a $126,000 addition to the Gainesville Public Library in 1962 and another $185,600 addition in 1965 to keep pace with the growing population. The City Commission took no action on the proposal.

1963 In 1963 The Santa Fe Regional Library Budget came from the following sources:

$38,000 or 29%	Gainesville
$43,000 or 34%	Alachua, Bradford & Union Counties
$30,000 or 23 1/2%	State of Florida
$16,500 or 12 1/2%	Federal Government
$127,500	

The library system was well below American Library Association standards - $1.25 per capita funding, instead of $4.00 per capita, .4 books per capita instead of 2 books per capita. There were 42,732 books in the collection.

1964 On Tuesday, February 11, 1964 residents of Gainesville approved a $6,000,000 bond referendum that included $250,000 for an addition of 10,000 sq. ft. to the 6,200 sq. ft. Gainesville Public Library.

An editorial in the *Gainesville Sun* on May 10th called for a careful study of expanding the existing building or constructing a new building. The editorial also called for increased operating funds for the library system, specifically challenging Alachua County, which was funding at less than half a mill, to match Union and Bradford County's one mill.

In October the City Commission applied for $175,000 federal LSCA construction money for the library building project.

1965 With the encouragement of the Library Advisory Board and a library building consultant, the City Commission decided to construct a new main library facility.

1965-68 There was continual revision of City Hall and Library construction projects to conform with bond funds available and spiraling costs of construction. Many delays and impediments slowed the construction schedule. The Library building program was reduced from 40,000 sq. ft. to 17,500 sq. ft. without the possibility of future expansion.

1966 The Gainesville Public Library started using a regiscope circulation system for its 390,000 yearly book checkouts.

In June, children's story hours were moved from the Gainesville Public Library next door to the American Legion Building because of the crowded condition of the library.

The Junior Women's Club of Gainesville donated $2,500 furnishing the children's wing of the new library.

1967 A new $22,478 bookmobile was purchased and began serving the Alachua-Bradford-Union circuit May 22nd.

In July Bradford County withdrew from the Santa Fe Regional Library system, deciding to fund its own library in Starke and to do without bookmobile services.

1968 The Library received a three year federal grant to index back issues of the *Gainesville Sun* and to microfilm the crumbling papers that dated back to August 1, 1891.

Use of the Santa Fe Regional Library system grew 4% in circulation during FY 67-68:

	67-68	66-67
Gainesville	148,668	144,701
Carver	2,350	2,103
Hawthorne	3,676	2,845
High Springs	1,685	1,249
Micanopy	1,004	994

Bookmobile		27,984 27,084
	(including Bradford Co.)	
Totals:	185,367	178,976

Library service to the Alachua County Detention Center began in 1968 through twice a month Bookmobile stops.

Library consultant Louis Nourse was hired by the Friends of the Library to study the Santa Fe Regional Library, and he proposed that local funding of $1.75 per capita be increased to the minimum Florida standard of $5.00 per capita. The report also proposed transferring the library system from the City to Alachua County if the County could provide adequate funding and doubling the size of the new Gainesville building under construction as soon as possible.

The new $439,293 Gainesville Public Library at 222 East University Avenue opened December 9, 1968. It was 17,500 sq. ft. with a book capacity of 88,000 volumes. Hours of service were: Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri. 10am to 8pm and Wed. and Sat. 10am to 5pm. It was already crowded when opened, and the public complained about insufficient parking in close proximity of the building. A new record collection was initiated with the opening of the building.

1969 Library Director Beth Daane resigned September 16, 1969 to accept a teaching position at the University of Florida.

The new Hawthorne Branch Library building was completed and opened to the public.

The 3,000 sq. ft. building cost $40,000 and was designed to hold 15,000 books.

Effective October 1, 1969, Union County withdrew from the Santa Fe Regional Library system. The County had paid $6,800, or $1 per citizen, for bookmobile service. In a tight financial year the Union County Commission decided it could not afford library service. In 1986, seventeen years later, there is still no library service in Union County.

Mrs. Jane Patton was hired as Library Director and began work December 15th. Lilly Carter, who had been Acting Director in the interim period, quietly closed Carver Branch Library, the Negro branch just a mile or so from the main library in Gainesville. There was no press release or announcement. Carver was closed temporarily for repairs and just not opened again when there was no public outcry about blacks using the main library.

In 1969 library service to nursing homes was begun.

1970 In May 1970 Mrs. Jane Patton resigned as Library Director to return to her former position in Panama City, Florida. Miss Lilly Carter again served as Acting Director until August, when she resigned. Adult Services Librarian Florence Dunlap was the appointed Acting Director. On October 1, 1970, Mr. Thomas E. O'Malley was appointed Library Director.

In July the old bookmobile replaced in 1968 was renovated at a cost of $500 and reintroduced to serve low income communities. The cost of gasoline was low, and the old bookmobile was a bit unreliable. So the old, smaller vehicle was used in Gainesville and the new larger vehicle served communities outside of Gainesville.

On December 1, 1970 Mr. O'Malley outlined the library's primary objectives to be: (1) increase service hours from 54 hours per week to 68, including Sunday hours; (2) expand the book collection of 82,000 books; and (3) immediate planning for expanded main library facility, a High Springs Branch, and new branches in the City of Gainesville.

1971 The library received a $25,000 grant from the State Library to attract non-users to library services and to reinforce and expand bookmobile services to City residents.

In 1971 Main Library hours of service were increased from 54 hours per week to 68, including four hours on Sunday afternoons. The FY 1971-72 budget for the library system was $285,370.

1972 In the fall of 1972 bookmobile service to low income neighborhoods of east Gainesville was discontinued because of lack of operating funds. One bookmobile continued to serve areas outside of Gainesville. The Library Advisory Board proposed taking over the old library building to expand main library holdings and services and also recommended the inclusion of a neighborhood branch in the planning underway for a northeast Gainesville neighborhood center; neither proposal was approved.

1973 Bookmobile service to east Gainesville was resumed in February.

Library Director O'Malley recommended to the City Commission the construction of a 40,000 sq. ft. facility to replace the main library of 17,500 sq. ft. built in 1968. There were in 1973 87,000 volumes in the collection and an annual circulation of 440,000 books. Gainesville was now funding library services at $180,600 and Alachua County at $121,000.

The Friends of the Library 20th annual book sale offered 25,000 books October 17 to 20 and netted $7,000.

1974 Library service to homebound citizens was initiated in cooperation with the Alachua County Older Americans Council.

In August bookmobile stops were cancelled for the remainder of the summer due to the demise of the old bookmobile shortly before the arrival of its $39,500 replacement, funded by a federal grant.

The 70th birthday of the Gainesville Public Library was celebrated October 30, 1974. One of the special honorees was Mrs. Annie C. Pound, who served on the Library Advisory Board from 1928 to 1969. Former Library Directors Beth Daane and Virginia Grazier attended.

A second new bookmobile was purchased for $36,000 from a state grant in 1974, and January 6, 1975 saw the reinstatement of two bookmobiles serving Gainesville and Alachua County.

1975 A plan for downtown redevelopment presented to the City Commission included the plaza now on the 100 block of East University Avenue with a new main library just west of City Hall. The library was quickly dropped from the plan.

In February budget cuts required dropping two four weekly story times at the main library.

From November 10th through the 15th the library sponsored a Fall Festival of Children's Books at the Gainesville Women's Club. Many authors and illustrators of children's books autographed books, and there were puppet shows. Goering's Book Center provided the books for the sale.

1976 In February, 1976 a branch library opened in the new Alachua County Adult Detention Center. It was staffed by trustees and stocked by the main library.

After years of fund raising by community organizations in High Springs, ground was broken for a new High Springs branch in May. With federal funds, there was $44,000 to build a 3,000 sq. ft. building.

1977 The new High Springs branch opened January 3rd, with a collection of 6,500 books. High Springs' children moved the book collection from the old library to the new with a block-long human chain.

The Micanopy Branch moved into its existing location, the first floor of the renovated historic school building.

The Main library closed for the week of January 3 - 9 to conduct the first complete inventory of the library collection. When the library reopened, a new $12,000 security system purchased by the Friends of the Library had been installed to prevent books being taken out of the building without being checked out.

On January 14, 1977 Library Director Thomas O'Malley died. Assistant Director Elaine Frances was named Acting Director.

A public survey in 1977 revealed that 58% of library users were residents of Gainesville, 37% residents of Alachua County outside Gainesville, and 5% from out of the County. The survey was the result of the search for more equitable City-County funding of library services. After years of annual budget arguments over library funding, the City funded library services fully in FY 76-77, while the County funded transit fully to avoid the new issue of double taxation. From 77-78 to 79-80 the County funded the library through its general revenue, and from FY 80-81 to 85-86 the County funded library services through a new taxing mechanism, the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), a property tax on the residents of the unincorporated areas of the County. This meant that the smaller cities in the County were not contributing to the operating funds of the branches, bookmobiles and main library except that the cities of Hawthorne, High Springs, and Micanopy provided for the maintenance of the branch libraries. The library budget in FY 76-77 was $662,327, $50,000 of which was for books, to serve a population of 104,764. Annual circulation was 527,005.

Acting Director Elaine Frances resigned in July, and Loretta Flowers was named Acting Director for a few weeks until Thomas E. Meyers, new library Director, arrived.

1978 In 1978 overdue fines were eliminated after a study showed that $21,000 in staff time was required to handle $13,000 income from fines annually.

1979 In 1979 two new children's programs were added at Main - a toddler story time for children 18 months to three years for parent and child and an evening family story time to which children could come in their pajamas.

In FY 1978-79 the library's budget was $614,521 and annual circulation was 619,000. The 1979-80 budget was $725,409.

In 1979 a library building consultant and architect were hired to study the main library building space needs. Their report recommended the construction of a new main library of 71,250 sq. ft., costing an estimated $5,072,000.

1980 The Friends of the Library annual book sale in November netted $15,000.

1981 In February, 1981 Thomas Meyers resigned as Library Director and Assistant Director Loretta Flowers was named Acting Director.

On April 20th a new service began - Bookmobile III, a specially designed step van funded by a federal grant. This third bookmobile or mini bookmobile was smaller than Bookmobiles I and II and designed to serve economically the homebound and small rural communities in the County which had been dropped from service in 1978 when rising gas prices made them inefficient for the two larger vehicles. Bookmobile circulation had tripled in the last years and now reached 120,000 books a year.

1980-81 circulation was 725,000 books system-wide.

1982 In February Loretta L. Flowers resigned, and Ann Warrington was named Acting Director.

A federal Library Services and Construction Act grant of $20,000 funded a project to improve the Library's collection in the area of environmental information. The project culminated in an environmental information fair held at Morningside Nature Park in September.

Citizens in the City of Alachua opened a volunteer library on February 20th in a loaned trailer on land next to the Alachua City Hall. A library board and friends of the library group spearheaded the effort to start the library and to make it a branch of the Santa Fe Regional Library.

Mary (Polly) J. Coe was hired as Library Director on May 10th.

The Alachua Library was not funded by the County as a branch of the library system in the FY 82-83 budget. County staff proposed criteria for branch libraries, and there was a public hearing on the criteria August 18th. The criteria were not adopted. Eventually, the County funded a book budget for Alachua but not operating costs or staff.

In the Fall of 1982 the City Commission established a committee to study and recommend on expanding or replacing the very crowded main library building.

1983 The Library Advisory Board appointed a citizens committee to implement the American Library Association Planning Process for Public Libraries. This process included studies of other library resources in the area, surveys of library users and surveys of people not using the public library. The result was a five year plan for development that was submitted to the City Commission and approved November 7, 1983.

The City Commission held several hearings on the space for the main library and a new site, finally settling on the original site of the Carnegie library building, across University Avenue from the 1968 building. The Commission also advertised for proposals, interviewed and selected architects for the new main library.

In the summer of 1983 the City and County Commissions established a seven member citizens committee to study the funding of library services countywide and recommend alternatives. In December the Joint City/County Library Services Ad Hoc Committee recommended to the two Commissions the establishment of an independent taxing district to finance and govern library services county-wide.

In the fall a one-year pilot project was begun with the Alachua County Schools. Two high school libraries were opened after school hours for public use, and the public library provided books, registration, etc. The extended hours were very heavily used by students, but the general public used the schools very little.

1984 During 1984 there was considerable public discussion of the library taxing district. The City Commission, County Commission, and Library Advisory Board drafted and discussed several versions of enabling legislation.

The Santa Fe Regional Library was awarded two out of five national awards by the American Library Association for innovative outreach services - the cooperative branch library in the Alachua County Detention center and library service to the homebound.

During 1984 the Library staff prepared specifications for an automated library system to provide much needed circulation control and to replace the card catalog with an on-line catalog. In August the City Commission awarded the contract to CL Systems, Inc. for a LIBS 100 system. The hardware was installed in November, and a two year conversion project to put all book data into machine readable form was begun in December.

In the fall the Santa Fe Regional Library initiated the first reciprocal borrowing agreement in the state with the Putnam County Library System to allow residents of Alachua and Putnam counties free access to both library systems.

In December a new library materials selections policy was submitted to the City Commission for approval. There was considerable public debate, particularly in the area of censorship of potentially controversial books. For the first time in the library's history the materials selection policy was approved by the governing body.

1985 In early 1985 the City and County Commissions were still discussing a possible library taxing district but had not reached a consensus. State Representative Sidney Martin, with the support of the other local delegation members, submitted enabling legislation for the Alachua County Library District to the Florida Legislature in the spring. It was passed by the Legislature.

The Library Advisory Board and Friends of the Library initiated a Library Referendum Committee during the summer to put together a campaign to inform voters about a library referendum that would create the Alachua County Library District as a special taxing district. Phyllis Bleiweis chaired the Referendum Committee of forty-one citizens. On October 15, 1985 the citizens of Alachua County approved the library taxing district in a special referendum by a vote of 4712 to 2799, 63% in favor, 37% opposed. There was a low voter turnout, with only 10% of registered voters in the County, but the nearly two to one margin was a strong vote for a tax increase to finance library service.

The year that ended on September 30, 1985 represented the busiest the library system had ever experienced. Circulation for the year was 858,877 from a collection of 197,819 volumes. There were 56,895 registered borrowers of a total county-wide population of 174,651, representing 33%. 211,874 reference questions were asked during the year, and 29,789 people attended programs at the various libraries. The FY 84-85 budget of $1,556,020 funded the main library in Gainesville, branch libraries in the towns of Hawthorne, High Springs, Micanopy, and Alachua, and three bookmobiles.

1986 In March of 1986 Alachua County commissioners signed legal documents necessary to turn the Santa Fe Regional Library over to the special library district on April 1. According to the agreements, the city would lease the current library to the new library district, and also sell a section of city property downtown as a site for a new library. The agreements also called for city and county leaders to sell the library system's books and most other property to the new library district for $2.

City and county leaders also nominated people to serve on the library district's board of trustees. The library's governing board will select three of the county's nominees and three of the city's nominees to serve on the board of trustees along with an additional trustee selected from nominees named by the Alachua County League of Cities.

On April 1, 1986, amid balloons, food, and flute players, the downtown Gainesville library became the Alachua County Library District. The library had been owned and run by the city of Gainesville, with some monetary assistance from the Alachua County government. In order to switch over the city's, county's, and library's various contractual obligations and leases, the library district's governing board -- composed of city commissioners Gary Gordon and Jean Chalmers and county commissioners Tom Coward, Leveda Brown and Jane Walker--spent 15 minutes approving documents. After that, the governing board named a library Board of Trustees, whose members are Thomas Rider, Martha J. Weismantel, Gustave Harrer, Cornelius Bonner, Arthur Marshall, Nicole Whitney and Victor Ramey.

On July 28, 1986 laser technology beams its way into the stacks at the Alachua County Library District. The library starts issuing new library cards with "zebra labels" similar to the Universal Product Codes on food items. Library users are asked to re-register in order to use the new bar-code system, which goes on line Oct. 1. The new cards are part of a $311,000 modernization of the library circulation desk, where a laser will read the labels on cards and books to keep track of where books are in the system.

On December 15 the library introduced the Al-E-Cat on-line computer catalog of all the library's offerings. Al-E-Cat is an acronym for Alachua County Library District Electronic Catalog. The system includes 46 terminals, 21 for public use, in each of the county's libraries including downtown Gainesville, Hawthorne, High Springs, and Micanopy. It will promote greater access to the more than 74,000 books, cassettes, records, and even include SUNDEX, a listing of local articles published in the Gainesville Sun. Future plans include a terminal at the Alachua branch.

1987 Library Director Mary "Polly" Coe resigned effective January 16, 1987.

In March the library governing board unanimously voted to buy Popeye's Game Room in the city of Alachua for $75,000 from Huntley Jiffey Stores, Inc. The property was valued at $100,000, and Huntley officials donated $25,000 of the value to the library district to house the new Alachua branch library. In October 1986, the mobile home that served as the city's library for five years was closed after inspectors found electrical and structural hazards.

On March 12, 1987 there was plenty of debate before the High Springs City Commission about whether to rent, lease, or donate the High Springs Library to the Alachua County Library District. The gift proposal was endorsed by the High Springs Friends of the Library and following the back-and-forth the motion passed 5-0 to donate the building to the district. The gift had a stipulation that ownership would revert to the city if the district stops using the building as a library. Two more debates followed in April & May and the building was officially donated on June 16, 1987.

After two stints as acting director of the Alachua County Library District, Ann Williams is named the new director in May 1987, three months after a nationwide search generated 55 candidates.

In July, 1987 a bond issue referendum date was set for September 15, 1987. The bond issue would finance a 10-year building program for a new main library, large branches for northwest and southwest Gainesville, and small branches for Archer and Newberry. The total cost will be about $16.5 million and the bond issue would be financed by taxes the district was already collecting and would not require a tax increase.

Alachua County voters approved by a small margin a $19 million bond issue on September 15, 1987 to finance a new main library and four branches. Turnout for the single-issue special election was 11.7 percent, 4,794 voting for the bond issue to 3,802 against, a margin of 56 percent to 44 percent.

On November 14, 1987 a ribbon cutting ceremony (including music from band members of Santa Fe High School) was held to open the new branch library in the city of Alachua. Residents had been without a library for a year because fire inspectors closed the old building, a trailer, because it did not have adequate fire safety.

1988 In January, 1988 improvements were made to the computer catalog by adding memory to the system. These improvements were first steps toward a new easier-to-use computer system for public use.

January also marked the signing of documents as the final step in getting $15 million bonds to build a new main library and four branches in the county.

The June 1, 1988 deadline for ground breaking at the new main library site had to be postponed due to asbestos found in office buildings on the site. The cancer-causing asbestos had to be removed before the buildings could be demolished, as well as the rerouting of a water main that cuts through the property and the removal of an underground fuel-oil tank.

1989 So far, construction of the new main library is right on schedule. When finished, the 78,000 square-foot, two-story library will house youth services on the first floor, adult services on the second floor and a 300 seat meeting room on a separate level. The new structure will be four times as large as the current library and is expected to be completed by December of 1990.

On April 25, 1989 the city of Archer and the Alachua County Library District celebrated the purchase of the site for the Archer Branch Library at the corner of University and Heagy Avenue (next to Casey's Cafe) in Archer. The ceremony included a children's program and refreshments, and the bookmobile was available for people to get library cards and check out books.

Cox Cable's 3rd Annual Lap for the Library was held on June 10, 1989. The Lap was a one-block walk, jog, or run around the present library block to raise funds to support the creation of a video section in the new library.

In September, the Governing Board of the Library District unanimously approved its tentative budget for 1989-90 in a public hearing that lasted only 22 minutes. The proposed $3.7 million budget is up from $3.1 million last year, but taxes will remain the same. A total of 1.5 mills, or $1.50 for each $1,000 in assessed property value, will be used to pay for construction of the main library and its branches.

(Revised October 1990)

Brevard County Library System

As is true of many of the libraries in the United States, most of the libraries in Brevard County were originally initiated by a club or an interested group of citizens banding together to organize and start a library program in their area or city. The first five public libraries in the county Cocoa, Cocoa Beach, Eau Gallie, Melbourne, and North Brevard in Titusville - were all started in this fashion.

In 1959, the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners and the cities started to implement Florida Statute 150, which gave county funding support to the five municipal libraries. In return the five libraries agreed to serve all county residents. The formula used for this support was a minimum of one-third from the cities and a maximum of two-thirds from the County to pay all operating expenses, and the city was required to furnish the building to house the library collection. This plan worked successfully for a number of years. During the sixties Brevard's population boomed as a result of the Aerospace Program and demands for library services began to come from many of the fast growing areas of the county. Merritt Island and Satellite Beach were added to the county's libraries and then Cape Canaveral followed by Meadowlane in 1970. From 1960 to 1970, a period of ten years, the number of libraries grew from five to nine.

Funding became a very real problem with monies being spread thinner and thinner. Book prices doubled during this time and new buildings provided by local governing agencies require more operating expenses and longer hours with more staffing.

The Brevard County Federated Library System was established in 1971 to give the best possible service to all county residents. At the same time as the System was organized, Florida

Statute 150 was rescinded and Brevard County Ordinance 72-1 became the legal authority for countywide library operations in Brevard. Under the Federated library system the public libraries succeeded in expanding resources of each of the nine libraries to include the rich information sources of all. A borrower's card from any member library is accepted at all other libraries in the System, and the library materials borrowed from any one member library may be returned to any other member library. On November 7, 1972, Brevard citizens voted for a tax referendum that established a countywide Library Tax District that funds the total operating costs of the Brevard public libraries up to one mil.

With the establishment of the countywide Library Tax District, the nine libraries of the system contracted with the Board of County Commissioners for provision of countywide library services. In 1972, a County Library Board was established to "advise in the establishment, operation, and maintenance of a free public library service within the County." A County Library Services Director directed the administrative and professional services of the Brevard County Library system.

The Stone Community Library in Melbourne was added in October, 1980 as a cooperative effort between the Brevard County School Board, the City of Melbourne and Brevard County.

In September 1983 the Palm Bay Public Library joined the system. The original library was funded by the City of Palm Bay and was housed in a modular structure. They moved to a newly built 8,500 square foot facility which was totally funded by the Friends of the Palm Bay Public Library and then donated to the City of Palm Bay in June 1984.

In November 1987 the Bookmobile was discontinued when the South Mainland Library...Micco was opened. This was the first building constructed by the Board of County

Commissioners who had voted in August 1985 to assume total responsibility for the operation of the Library System based on a study prepared by Mr. Richard Waters. The building was a modular building of 6,000 square feet and built on land donated to the County by Mr. and Mrs. Ron Abbott.

Port St. John Public Library was built next and opened in October, 1988. The 9,000 square foot facility was built using the same basic floor plan approved by the City of Cape Canaveral for the new Cape Canaveral Library. The residents of the City of Cape Canaveral passed a referendum to construct a library building in November 1985. This referendum provided for a .5 mil funding source. The new Cape Canaveral Public Library moved from a 4,800 square foot facility in a strip shopping center to an approximately 9,000 square foot facility in February, 1989.

A $10.5 million bond issue was obtained in 1987 to construct the new Melbourne Public Library and to renovate the old Florida Today building in Cocoa for the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center. The New Melbourne Public Library is a 25,000 square foot facility located on the site of the old Melbourne Public Library in Wells Park. It was opened to the public in July 1989 with the Grand Opening in September 1989.

The Administrative offices of the Library Services Director are located in the River House at the east of the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center complex. Their offices moved from rental quarters in September 1989.

The Central Brevard Library and Reference Center is a 97,000 square foot facility that serves as the public library for the Cocoa-Rockledge area as well as the Reference Library for the System.

It also houses the Film Library, Library Connection (service to the homebound patron), Central Processing Department, Talking Books Library, Literacy Program, the Records Management Center for the County, the Library System Computer and the Administrative Offices for the two Assistant Library Services Directors for Library Operations and Library Support Services. It was opened to the public in January 1990 with the Grand Opening in February 1990.

The Meadowlane Community Library was relocated to the Metro-West Shopping Center at the corner of Wickham Road and 192 in West Melbourne on March 2, 1991. The rental facility is 7,900 square feet.

In 1991 a new 19,000 square foot facility was completed for the Satellite Beach Public Library at the site of the old Indian Harbor Beach Sewer Treatment Plant property. The land was purchased by the County at a cost of $75,000 and increased the size of the library from 6,500 square feet to 19,000 square feet.

The F. T. DeGroodt Public Library was completed in June 1992 and is a 22,300 square foot facility which was built in the western area west of I-95 in Palm Bay. The original Palm Bay Public Library was then renovated and remained open to serve the residents in the northeast area of Palm Bay. With the addition of this second library in Palm Bay the total number of libraries rose to fourteen (14) in the Brevard County Library System.

On November 2, 1993 the Board of County Commissioners approved eight construction projects which included the expansion of the North Brevard Public Library, the Cape Canaveral Public Library, the Merritt Island Public Library and the South Mainland Library...Micco and new facilities for the Cocoa Beach Public Library, the Eau Gallie Public Library, the West

Melbourne (Meadowlane) Public Library and the Stone Community Library. A total of $9,900,000 was allocated for all of the construction projects.

When the County Commissioners approved the construction of the eight projects, they also approved the hiring of a Library Construction Coordinator. Mr. Frank Harris was selected to oversee the projects and to apply for grants and other sources of revenue for the projects.

In December 1994, an Accountant was added to the Administrative Staff to prepare all budget and financial reports based on the needs of the libraries and the System as a whole. The Accountant assists in writing financial procedures and monitors the financial condition of the System.

Construction Grants were submitted to the Florida State Library for five of the eight projects: North Brevard Public Library, Merritt Island Public Library, Cocoa Beach Public Library, Eau Gallie Public Library and West Melbourne Public Library. Our requests for North Brevard Public Library and the Merritt Island Public Library were disqualified; however, the remaining three construction grants were approved by the Governor and Legislators in June 1996. Each library will receive $400,000 to assist with their construction projects. In addition to the previous Bookmobile, State and Federal Grants have provided funds for: developing programs for adults working with children to teach techniques which will encourage children to read, increasing the libraries' activities for children, developing a central film library of 16mm film, purchasing large print book collections, films for older adults and for programs at nursing and convalescent homes, Adult Literacy, Talking Books for the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Audio Books.

In anticipation of continued growth in the population and greater use of existing library facilities, an automated card catalog is now linking the libraries together to provide the most efficient, economic utilization of the resources of the Brevard County Library System for Brevard County residents. Access to the Internet has also been added to the libraries and to dial-in-patrons.

In 1996 the second floor of the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center was renovated to house the Government Document section of the Library. The area will provide Federal, State, County and local documents for easier access by the public.

CAPE CANAVERAL LIBRARY

In early 1966, soon after the opening of the Cape Canaveral City Hall Building a group of citizens began to think about the development, of a library for Cape Canaveral. Mayor Richard Thurm appointed Deanna Collins and Anne Ross to conduct a feasibility study for the establishment of the library.

The committee members submitted their findings at a City Council Workshop. Council members were told that nearly half of the city's population of 6,500 residents held library cards from the Cocoa Beach Library. A tentative budget was established at $14,765 with $9,843 to come from County funds. A site had been chosen at 110 Polk Ave. in the "Propper" building across from City Hall and in the same building as the Cape Canaveral Chamber of Commerce.

The City Council passed Resolution 66-21 "Encouraging the formation of a Cape Canaveral City Library." On May 10, an ordinance was passed establishing a Library and appointing the first Library Board.

The Library opened at 110 Polk Ave. in April, 1967. A library director, Irene Sanders, was hired and continued in the position until her retirement in early 1987.

In 1970 the library was moved to the Palm Plaza to a store building owned by Shuford Mills. As the number of books increased more space was needed and after incorporating additional store areas, the library was moved to Palms East on Caroline Street in 1978.

In 1971 the Cape Canaveral Library became a part of the Brevard County Library System. From 1966 to the present time, the library continued to grow from only the few hundred donated books in 1966 to over 35,000 items in 1990.

A tax referendum was approved to construct a library building in November 1985. This referendum provided for .5 mill funding source.

The grand opening of the new facility located on 7400 Poinsetta Ave. was on March 11, 1989. The cost of the construction was $370,167. The library now enjoys a spacious 9,000 square foot building divided into four main areas; an adult reading room, children's reading room, reference area, and meeting room. This facility has greatly enhanced library usage and provided for expanded services to the Cape Canaveral Community.

CENTRAL BREVARD LIBRARY AND REFERENCE CENTER (COCOA)

The Central Brevard Library's history as the public library in Cocoa dates back to 1895. A group calling itself AVILAH (A Village Improvement, Library, Art, History) was formed to work toward cultural programs for the community. Eventually, the library was the recipient of the group's efforts. A room was rented for $5/month for a library, but there were no books nor furniture. Citizens donated books, chairs, and tables and until 1942 they paid $1/year to use this little library. The ladies of the community took turns acting as librarian in charge.

At the end of five years, the library had to move when the building was sold. Various moves ensued and library supporters even moved an existing building to a new lot although the bottom of the building gave way with all the books landing on the road. This put a new drive and zeal into the group, which announced its desire for a new building. With $500 earned from bazaars and suppers, the group started to build a building which was to cost $2,500 This building would be the second concrete building in Cocoa and would be paid for at its completion.

In 1942, 5,000-6,000 books were held by the library and it was deeded to the City of Cocoa. At that time, the City maintained the library through its annual budget.

In June 1954 the City signed a contract with the County to provide free service, with the City giving one-third of the funds needed and the County, two-thirds.

In 1955 the first professional librarian was hired.

In 1965 a new building program was initiated. This resulted in the former Cocoa Library at 430 Delannoy Ave., a 14,000 square foot building with a capacity for 88,000 books, with all the modern library services provided. Cost of the project was $250,000 and was completed that year. That library served the citizens of Cocoa and Rockledge as well as part of the Brevard County Library System until the concept of a central library for Brevard was embraced by the County Commission in 1985.

In January 1990, a 97,000 square foot facility with more than 108,000 volumes, the former FLORIDA TODAY building, was dedicated as the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center -- a long way from that first building in 1895, but still dedicated to serving the citizens of our community.

Continually expanding the services provided, the Board of County Commissioners approved renovations to the second floor in June of 1995 to give the library space for the newly designated Federal Documents Depository.

The Library Advisory Board is made up of five citizens from County Commission Districts II and IV and its members currently are Loretta Wilson, Chairman; Carolyn Kenaston, ViceChairman/Treasurer; Betty Armistead; and Janet Williams. The office of Secretary is vacant and there is one vacancy on the Board. The members are appointed by the County Commission and serve one year terms. They meet monthly and act as citizen advisors to the Library Director in matters of policy and procedure.

COCOA BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Cocoa Beach Public Library began as a project of the first Women's Club of Cocoa Beach. On its opening day in December of 1954, four people checked out six books from a stock of 400 books borrowed from the State Library.

On May 21, 1955, the library officially opened in one room adjacent to the old City Hall. In the first six months, 110 books were circulated. On February 15, 1959, the library moved to larger quarters at 41 N. Orlando Avenue. Circulation in 1960 rose to 28, 849.

With the aid of the Cocoa Beach branch of AAUW, A Friends of the Library group was organized in 1961, and the group was instrumental in passing the $60,000 bond issue for the original 5,200 square foot building on the present site, 55 S. Brevard Avenue. The site itself was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gus Edwards, early developers of Cocoa Beach. The building was dedicated on March 10, 1963.

In March of 1967, Cocoa Beach residents again voted in favor of a Library Bond issue, this time for the sum of $200,000 to nearly triple the size of the building, to 15,400 square feet. The expanded library opened to the public on March 30, 1969.

Anticipating correctly that the community and demands for library services would continue to grow, the addition was built to accommodate a second story, which would add about 10,000 square feet to the existing facility. In 1980 this expansion was included in the Cocoa Beach Library Board's long range plan and, in 1988, was included in the County Library System's ten year building plan.

Today (1990) the library serves nearly 20,000 users each month and circulates more than 180,000 books per year from a collection totaling 85,000 volumes.

The Cocoa Beach Library Board consists of seven members appointed for three year terms by the City Commission.

EAU GALLIE PUBLIC LIBRARY (MELBOURNE)

A library for the Eau Gallie Woman's Club members began informally with an exchange of books and periodicals among their own group during the 1920's and 1930's. In those days, especially in sparsely-settled Brevard County, the federated women's clubs served also as the conscience of each community -- forerunner of the later activities of garden clubs, PTA groups, homemakers, and leaders of social and cultural concerns.

In 1939, the Eau Gallie Woman's Club officially sponsored a circulating library, which began with 22 books and some shelves in a member's office on Ninth Street, now Eau Gallie Boulevard.

Some 125 books later, a niche was found in the corner of a public dining room, also owned by a member. Subsequently, a library was opened in the Woman's Club building on Montreal Avenue.

In 1940, a room in the old City Hall building on Highland Avenue was offered the Woman's Club Library by the city fathers. Mrs. Ellsworth Morgan was appointed by the Woman's Club to serve as librarian, in which capacity she served as a dedicated volunteer for many years.

Woman's Club members organized bake sales, dinners, card parties and other social activities to raise funds for books and materials, and supplied volunteer workers to keep the library open some 10 hours a week.

In 1954, the Eau Gallie Woman's Club entered into an agreement with the Brevard County Commissioners whereby they made the Woman f s Club Library a free public library and thus became eligible for substantial support from the county. It became possible to classify the books under the dewey decimal system and to begin expanded library service.

A year later, when enlarged quarters were offered the Woman's Club Library in the Eau Gallie Civic Center, following the opening of the new bridge and Eau Gallie Causeway, the Woman's Club executive committee met with Eau Gallie councilmen and decided to transfer their library to the city.

The rapid growth of the area necessitated opening the library for longer hours, and necessary fire insurance on almost 41000 volumes was prohibitive for the Woman's Club.

It was mutually agreed between the Eau Gallie Woman's Club and the City of Eau Gallie that a library board be appointed by the city to administer the library and that the library be called "The Eau Gallie Municipal Library". By ordinance enacted July 25, 1955, the City of Eau Gallie set up a free municipal library and the Woman's Club Library by such name ceased to exist.

It was a great day on October 1, 1962 when the townsfolk gathered under the historic banyan tree in Riverfront Park for a short ceremony, a simple prayer of dedication and an open house in the new, charming, functional library, with refreshments served on the delightful screened patio overlooking the Indian River.

The new library building opened with 15, 000 volumes to take care of the needs of 4, 000 patrons, who had been re-registered the previous December.

one of the first community activities in the new library opening week was a "Countdown" when 130 young, eager members of the Summer Reading Club received certificates and enjoyed a party in their own enchanting room.

The Eau Gallie Public Library opened in 1962 with 3500 square feet, since that day the library has been expanded twice. The first expansion in 1967 provided an additional 3200 square feet providing a total of 6700 square feet. In 1974 the library was expanded again providing a total 10,600 square feet of library space. In October, 1990 the Eau Gallie Public Library had a collection of 67,023 volumes and over 25,000 registered borrowers, a testament to the faith of the founders of the Eau Gallie Woman's Club.

FRANKLIN T. DEGROODT MEMORLAL LIBRARY (PALM BAY)

The Brevard County Board of Commissioners opened the Franklin T. DeGroodt Memorial Library on June 8, 1992. The new library was named after a past mayor for the City of Palm Bay, who was instrumental in initiating library service in the city during the early 1970's. .

The library is 22,500 square feet and architecturally designed to resemble a Florida Cracker House, complete with a front porch. The library is located in a multi-purpose complex including the Palm Bay City Hall and police and fire departments. Five elementary schools and a junior high surround the facility.

The library has been well utilized since opening. The average monthly circulation is 28,000 and approximately 600 new borrower cards are issued each month.

The Franklin T. DeGroodt Library is supported by an active Friends group and Advisory Board that also serves the Palm Bay Library. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Palm Bay City Council. They meet monthly and act as a citizen advisory group to the Library Director.

MEADOWLANE COMMUNITY LIBRARY (MELBOURNE)

The Meadowlane community Library was developed by the residents of West Melbourne, Melbourne Village, and nearby unincorporated areas of Brevard County. First proposed in 1968, the library opened its doors on October 1, 1970.

Meadowlane Community Library was the first combined school and public library in Brevard County. Both libraries were under the direction of one librarian. Its collection included 2,000 adult and 12,000 children's books donated by the community.

After one year of operation, the Meadowlane Community Library had approximately 1,300 registered patrons and a monthly circulation of 1,900 items.

In 1976, the school and public libraries became separate entities, but were still housed in the same facility. operation of the school library became the responsibility of the Brevard County School Board. The public library was operated by the Brevard County Library System.

The Meadowlane Community Library Association, a non-profit corporation, served as advisors and fundraisers for the library. Its board of directors served as the Meadowlane Community Library Advisory Board. The Association sponsored skating parties and book sales and published a newsletter highlighting library activities and soliciting donations.

The Friends of the Meadowlane Community Library, a volunteer organization, was founded in 1970 to offer volunteer manpower and financial assistance to the library.

In March 1991, the library vacated the Meadowlane Elementary School and moved to a rental facility in Metro West shopping center, West Melbourne. The Meadowlane Community Library Association dissolved in June 1992 to make way for an advisory board appointed by the Board of County Commissioners.

As of June 1992, Meadowlane Community Library had 6,965 registered borrowers and a collection of over 30,200 books and 1,700 A-V materials. The monthly circulation was 9,294. Storytime, Toddlertime and PJ Storytime are held regularly for children. A Summer Library Program, VITA Tax Assistance, Master Gardener sessions and other special events are also offered to the community.

MELBOURNE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Melbourne Public Library was founded in 1918 by a group of volunteers calling themselves the Library Association of Melbourne. The group, headed by Mrs. Stanford Wells, operated the library until 1954, when it became city-owned.

The first permanent home for the Library was built in 1924 with funds raised by the Library Association. Library operations were funded by membership fees and contributions from the City and from local organizations.

In 1954 a new building was provided for the Library by the Civic Improvement Board, which turned it over to the City. The Library was then operated under a series of agreements between the City and the County under which all county residents were served.

In 1956 a support group, the Friends of the Melbourne Library, was formed. It has since lived up to its name by providing strong advocacy for the Library. With continuing growth of demand and deterioration of the Library facility, the need for a new building finally became evident.

In 1986 the Library moved to a temporary rental facility while a new 25,000 square foot building was planned and constructed. The new Library opened to the public in August of 1989.

It has a five-member advisory Library Board appointed by the City for five year terms.

MERRITT ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Merritt Island Library was begun in 1965 by a group of concerned residents. They formed a "Friends of the Library" group to stimulate the interests of the residents of Merritt Island in supporting the creation and eventual building of a library. The first library was in a trailer in the parking lot of what is now the First Florida Bank. The books were donated through a community book drive. In order to raise money to operate a library, the legislature was asked to create a tax district. A referendum was held and the citizens of Merritt Island agreed to tax themselves up to .5 mill for a library. The legislature then established the Merritt Island Library Tax District. The first tax district board was appointed December 30, 1965 by Gov. Hayden Burns.

On March 26, 1966 the Merritt Island Library moved to the Civil Defense Building at the corner of Courtenay and Myrtice. In 1969, with a federal grant of $200,000 the present building was built with 17,500 sq. ft. and expandable with a second story.

In 1972 the library was incorporated into the County Library System. The first contract was signed in 1976. It provided for the county to take over salaries of the personnel, to pay the utilities and maintain the air conditioning and other parts of the inside of the building. The tax district would still own the building and take care of and maintain the grounds. At present the library circulates over 200,000 items per year, has a collection approaching 80,000 items and provides meeting rooms for over 700 meetings per year.

The board of the Merritt Island Public Library consists of fifteen members that are appointed by the governor. The board oversees a budget of over $100,000 per year. The budget is used to care for the exterior of the building and to supplement the county budget. Recent projects of the board included extensive interior renovations of the building. The board recently redid the surface of the parking areas and is presently looking into adding additional handicapped restrooms for the library.

NORTH BREVARD PUBLIC LIBRARY (TITUSVILLE)

The North Brevard Public Library can trace its beginnings to June 5, 1900 when the first library was formed in Titusville by the Progressive Culture Club. This was the former name of the Woman's Club of Titusville. The Titusville Library Association was formed later and the library really started in 1902 with 200 volumes. In August 1922 a building at the corner of Washington and Palmetto Streets became the new Club building and the library was located on the 2nd floor. It was open two afternoons a week. By 1948 when that building was sold the library had grown to 2,500 volumes. It moved into temporary headquarters above the Fire Department. From there in 1954 the Woman's Club acquired a building which had been formerly used during World War I as a canning plant. According to a newspaper article the library's annual circulation as of October 1, 1956 was 12,073 and the book collection was 5,120. The library was open 44 hours/week and had 643 active borrowers. The next Titusville library facility was designed by Frans Larson and constructed near DRAA Field (a local ball field) in 1922. The library was renamed the Mildred Bruner Memorial Library.

The new Indian River City Public Library was dedicated on November 13, 1958. Principal speakers at the ceremony included Commissioner Bernard Parrish, Colonel W. H. Boshoff, Chairman of the Fund Raising Drive, and Charles Lee Graham. The building was built by public subscription and took three weeks for the contractor to build. It was located on the corner of Coquina and Magnolia Aves. and measured 241 by 501. In 1963 the Indian River City Library was made a branch of the Mildred Bruner Memorial Library.

The Woman's Club Library Board was active until 1964 when a City Library Board was formed. In 1969 the North Brevard Library District Board was established through Chapter 69-869 Laws of Florida.

A referendum for a 1 mill one year tax to finance construction of a new library facility passed on November 4, 1969. A land deed was transferred from the School Board to the Library Board for the specific purpose of a new library facility. A grant was received through the State Library toward this construction. On April 25, 1971 groundbreaking ceremonies were held. The building was completed in June 1972. On July 15th the Indian River City Branch closed and on July 23rd the Mildred Bruner Library permanently closed. On July 31st the North Brevard Public Library was open to the public in its current location on South Hopkins Avenue.

Through the support of the City of Titusville, and the generosity of the Jacob Hannamann family an addition was completed in 1979. It provided meeting room space and more stack area. In FY 1989/90 the library was open 64 hours/week and circulated 297,457 items with a collection of 68,345 books.

PALM BAY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The city of Palm Bay opened a 2,100 square foot temporary library in April 1980 with a collection of 3,149 books. At the time the population of Palm Bay was approximately 18,000. The city unsuccessfully attempted twice to pass a referendum that would provide funds for a new, larger permanent facility.

In 1983 the building contractors in the community offered to assist in building a new facility. They agreed with the Friends of the Library to build the facility at less than cost if the

Friends could raise $125,000 in four months. The City was willing to commit the property and funds necessary for furnishing the facility.

This same year the Palm Bay Library Board requested admission of the Palm Bay Library into the Brevard County Library System and in October 1983, the request was granted.

Construction of the new facility began in early 1984 and the library opened on June 16, 1984. The facility was 8,500 square feet. The population of the City was approximately 32,000.

The new library was a success. By 1988 the population at Palm Bay was 56,000 and the library was showing a growth of 36% annually. Library parking was at a minimum and interior space for any collection growth no longer existed.

The Palm Bay Library Advisory Board established an expansion committee in 1987. The Committee was made up of members of the advisory board, friends group, city and engineering staff, and community members. A survey identified a desire by community members to see the current facility expanded and a second site established in the southeast section of the City.

In 1988 the Palm Bay Library Advisory Board asked the County Library Advisory Board to place the Palm Bay Library on their priorities for expansion. Expansion plans were begun but came to a halt when it was deemed impossible to expand the present facility and keep it operating at the same time. The City of Palm Bay offered another site for building in close proximity to the present site. It was later determined that gopher turtles inhabited this new site and they could not be easily relocated.

The City of Palm Bay then offered five acres in the southwest section of the City adjacent to their new city hall. This site originally was designated for a second smaller Palm Bay Library. The Advisory Board, Friends members and County Staff accepted this site and preparation for a new 22,500 square foot building began. The new facility, Franklin T. DeGroodt Memorial Library, was opened on June 8, 1992.

The existing building remained open with limited services, fewer operating hours and a smaller book collection. The City of Palm Bay has pledged financial support for this site until 1995.

The Palm Bay Library is supported by an active Friends Group and Advisory Board that also serves the Franklin T. DeGroodt Library. The Board consists of five members appointed by the Palm Bay City Council. They meet monthly and act as citizen advisory group to the Library Director.

PORT ST. JOHN PUBLIC LIBRARY (COCOA)

Port St. John is an unincorporated area located midway between Cocoa and Titusville. The Brevard County Board of County Commissioners, based upon the population in the community, determined that an additional public library was needed to serve the residents. The estimated population at the time of approval for the library construction was 8,500 people.

Dedication of the 9,000 square foot library was on October 8, 1988. Community support was apparent from the beginning when volunteers offered to assist the staff, to help with the library dedication, and to promote the organization of a Friends of the Port St. John Library.

The first organizational meeting of the Friends of the Port St. John Library was held November 17, 1988. On April 14, 1989 the articles of Incorporation for the Friends of the Port St. John Library, Inc. were filed with the Florida Department of State. This group remains a supportive nucleus for this library and the community it serves.

On March 6, 1990 the Board of County Commissioners of Brevard County approved a resolution to create the Port St. John Public Library Advisory Board. The first meeting was held August 16, 1990.

Since its inception, this facility has been utilized as a polling place for voters, literacy tutoring and workshops, and a meeting center for various organizations and study groups in Port St. John. Due to a surge in population to more than 12,000 a second elementary school was built in 1990. The most burgeoning services in this library have been for reference and youth services.

SATELLITE BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1965, members of the Satellite Beach Woman's Club and the Satellite Beach Lion's Club saw the need for a public library in Satellite Beach. They approached Mayor Hedgecock and the City council expressing the need. All agreed a library should be built in this community.

Investigating committees for construction, finance and library operations were formed. A community book drive was held and books were collected and housed at the Southeast Bank building. A site was selected by the City of Satellite Beach on Cassia Boulevard. Buildings were constructed for a Library and a Civic Center complex. The Board of County Commissioners accepted the library concept and provided two-thirds of the operating expenses. The City of Satellite Beach contributed the other third. A head librarian was hired to operate the facility with a volunteer staff. The first budget was $50,000.

On April 17, 1966, the Satellite Beach Public Library was dedicated and opened the next day for business.

Within two years the library outgrew its one room and occupied the rest of the building.

In 1972 by virtue of a tax referendum, provision was made for the establishment of a library system. In 1976, the first contracts were signed between the municipalities and the County. Library employees became County Employees. The responsibility for facility maintenance was shared. In 1985, a contract was signed giving Brevard County and Brevard County Library System full responsibility and financial authority over library staff and facilities.

At present, there are 18,266 registered borrowers with a monthly circulation averaging 22,000. There are approximately 63,891 volumes in the book collection of fiction, non-fiction, and reference. There are 2,200 recordings and cassettes and 1269 video tapes. A collection of compact discs has been added.

September 21, 1991, a new 19,000 sq. ft. facility was dedicated and opened on September 23, 1991 at 751 Jamaica Boulevard, Satellite Beach.

The new facility offers a Community Meeting Room, children's area and young adult section, study rooms, and public typewriter.

SOUTH MAINLAND...MICCO (BAREFOOT BAY)

Library service for the residents of the South Mainland area began with the Bookmobile in 1975. The Bookmobile served those areas of Brevard County whose population did not have easy access to a traditional library. It provided service to each area at least once every two weeks.

Adjustments were made in the Bookmobile schedule when the energy shortage of the late 1970s inflated the cost of operation. In 1984, the Bookmobile was relocated to the Palm Bay Library and its outreach function was replaced with the Books-By-Mail Service. With these changes, the Bookmobile was primarily used in serving senior citizen areas and was providing weekly service to Micco.

In the Bookmobile's tenth year, the people of the Micco area were indicating dissatisfaction with the weekly service. The volume of circulation justified adjusting the schedule to provide service three time weekly to the Micco area.

Brevard County hired HBW Consultants in 1985 to conduct a study of the library system. They recommended the county assume responsibility for the construction and maintenance of library facilities, and recommended a facility be built in the Micco area within ten years.

Residents, however, could not wait that long and an active Friends group was formed in 1986. The group began raising funds to build a permanent facility. Additional funds became available when the Florida State Legislature removed the cap on library millage.

The Board of County Commissioners selected the Micco area as the site of the first county-built library. Land was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Ron Abbott and construction began in 1987.

The new library opened in November 1987 under the direction of the Palm Bay Library Director, was staffed by two paraprofessionals and many volunteers. A full-time director was added to the staff in November 1989.

The Friends of the Library of South Brevard, Inc. continue to play an active role in supporting the library with donations of materials and equipment and many active volunteers.

STONE COMMUNITY LIBRARY (MELBOURNE)

A group of concerned South Melbourne residents approached members of the Brevard County School Board and the Melbourne City Council to establish a Community Library with the Stone Middle School Library for use of the residents in the South Melbourne area and the city as a whole.

The library was built jointly with funds from the Brevard County School Board and the City of Melbourne in 1973.

The Friends of the Stone Community Library along with other concerned citizens requested admittance to the Brevard County Library System. This request was granted and Stone Community Library was admitted in October 1980 as a part of the Brevard County Library System. A joint use agreement was signed by the Chairman of the Brevard County School Board, the City of Melbourne and the Brevard County Board of County Commissioners. This use agreement provided for the school library facility to be opened to the community for library programming, library collection development and as a focal point for community organizations and activities.

LIBRARY SUPPORT SERVICES

ADULT LITERACY

The Adult Literacy Program for Brevard County was initiated on February 17, 1986, with the hiring of a Project Coordinator. In the beginning months, time was spent identifying the literacy skills that were needed, wanted, and by whom. Following this needs assessment, a publicity campaign was carried out.

Public Service announcements were aired on local television and radio stations. Brochures were produced and placed in the public libraries and Social Services offices, and were distributed to civic organizations as well as to private industry. A newsletter was developed containing news for and about literacy providers in the County.

The purpose of this literacy program is to enable citizens of Brevard County to acquire necessary basic skills in reading and writing, so that they may participate more fully in society. Our program also addresses the needs of those for whom English is not their native language. Training is given to tutors in an E.S.L. (English for Speakers of Other Languages) workshop and special materials are bought to use in working with the non-English speaking student. Assistance is given in acquisition of U.S. citizenship as requested by the student. Laubach tutoring materials were purchased and distributed through the Library System. This material is made available free of charge to every tutor working with the Library System program and serves as a basis for the tutoring program.

Workshops in the Laubach Way To Reading are given on a continuous basis. Approximately one thousand volunteers have been trained as tutors at these workshops. To date approximately one thousand students have gone through the program.

On September of 1992, an outreach center was opened in Titusville. Classroom space was leased from the Facilities Management Division at the cost of one dollar per year. The facility provides a central location for people needing help with reading and writing skills. Manned by volunteers, the Learning Place is open six days a week.

Another center is being readied for opening by September of 1993. Located in Melbourne, this center also utilizes donated space and will be fully staffed by volunteers.

As the program grows, so does cooperation between the literacy groups in the County. This cooperation leads to improved quality of help given the literacy student and furthers his chance of success.

BOOKS BY MAIL

The Books by Mail program of the Brevard County Library System started in November of 1983. Initiated with grant funding from the Library Services and Construction Act, the program received grant funding for its first four years of operation and was fully County funded in October of 1987. With the Bookmobile being phased out of operation, the System needed an avenue for getting materials to those residents who were unable to visit a library for various reasons, and Books by Mail filled that need. The program mails library materials to patrons in their homes; the only materials not available through the service are audiovisual materials, records and reference books. To return the materials, patrons can either return them or have them returned for them to any public library in Brevard County or they can return them through the mail by affixing the same amount of postage on the package that it took to get the materials to them. The address labels used by the program also serve as book order cards, and there is a return address label on every mailer. A newsletter, THE BROWN-BAGGER, also affects the strive for personalization of the program.

Reserve-by-mail service was added to the program in January of 1985. After a careful cost effectiveness study, it was apparent the response to patrons' requests would be not only more cost effective using the Books by Mail program, but the centralization it would afford would also address the reserves more efficiently. This in turn freed the staff members of the libraries to serving other patron needs. With the advent of the on-line catalog in early 1990, the reserves service shows a dramatic increase in patron requests. As more residents become familiar with the new system, the reserve portion of Books by Mail will continue to escalate.

Initially, the program could not mail cassette tapes although many requests for tapes through the mail were received. To meet this need, a proposal was written, and in October of 1988, the Library System received a LSCA grant to set up Audio Books as a part of the Books by Mail program. This project has received grant funding for the ensuing years, and word has been received it will be funded in its fourth year also. The project is developing an extensive library of books-on-cassette, from juvenile read-alongs to adult non-fiction, and providing them to residents in their homes. Unlike Talking Books which is only for the blind and physically handicapped, Audio Books serves all residents of the County. A catalog is produced each year, and new titles are listed in the Books by Mail newsletter to assist borrowers in making their reading selections. As is done for books, the tapes are mailed to patrons at their homes, and they have the same options for returning them back to the library. The books-on-cassette format of library media is gaining popularity, and this will only translate into higher demands for the Audio Books program.

Books by Mail has enjoyed phenomenal success in meeting the library needs of the residents of Brevard County. The first books were mailed in February of 1984--a total of 177 books. Today, the program mails over 5,000 a month, and the figure keeps growing. The Books by Mail program of the Brevard County Library System is second in the State of Florida with only Orange County besting them. The program has also attained national recognition with many requests for assistance in setting up such a program having been received over the years.

CENTRALIZED TECHNICAL PROCESSING

Centralized technical processing for the public libraries in Brevard County was begun in the spring of 1981. This department serves all 14 libraries as well as county Reserves and Adult Literacy.

The Technical Processing Center receives all new book acquisitions for the Library System. Materials are verified according to invoice, condition and then approved for payment. Each of the libraries order whatever books they wish for their collections and the books are sent from the vendors to Central Processing for check in. All items are cataloged using the OCLC database and holdings are entered in the CLSI online catalog via an interface with the main computer. After cataloging the books are stamped and covered and made shelf-ready for the owning libraries. Books are packed and sent to the libraries throughout the week. Non-book media are cataloged, but not received or processed in the Technical Processing Center.

Two staff members (1 full time, 1 part time) handle interlibrary loan from computer terminals located in the Processing Department. By using dedicated line access to the OCLC database staff members are able to locate titles needed to fill patron requests. These titles are requested from OCLS member libraries throughout Florida and the United States. There is no cost to the patron for borrowing these books and this program allows access to innumerable title not available within the county system.

COMPUTER ROOM

The Library System Computer Room staff is responsible for the operation of the CLSI Computer Center. This computer system interfaces with all the libraries through digital phone lines and micoms to provide the circulation control, online catalog and other computerized daily activities of the library system.

The computer room staff provides all circulation reports for the library system, assists in the maintenance of the programs, and performs hardware and peripheral equipment maintenance as required.

The dial access computer catalog is also maintained through the computer room.

The computer room staff is responsible for the day to day operation of the CLSI computer system, for scheduling maintenance, for performing repair programs on the database and for the replacement of hardware as needed. They interact with the CLSI CRC (computer response center) in NewtonVille, Ma. to resolve problems and to schedule maintenance.

RECORDS MANAGEMENT

The Records Management Center was established in 1989 and is a part of the Library System housed in the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center. Records are stored on the third floor of the north wing of the building and maintained in a manner consistent with the Florida Administrative Code and Florida Statutes. The purpose of the Records Center is to provide an off-site storage area for semi-active, inactive and archival records of the county.

The Records Centers, as a service facility, is merely an extension of the department's/office's filing system. The title and right of access to the records shall remain with the department which created and uses the records.

Access to records is provided by Records Management staff in coordination with individual departments according to Florida Statues (Chapter 119. 07 (1)) . Requests by members of the public for records must include all necessary information required for retrieval by Records Management staff. This may require direct contact with the originating department. Records Management staff will then coordinate record retrieval and make them available in accordance with Florida Statutes.

The Records Center provides space for records at a considerably lower cost than would be otherwise possible (typically, the cost of maintaining records in a records center is 1/10th the cost of office storage.) Benefits are realized through:

1. Savings in costly space by removing from the office those records not required in the daily operation;

2. Savings in money by releasing filing equipment for reuse;

3. Savings in time by being able to find active records more easily once inactive records are removed.

The Records Center provides a facility where a systematic and proper method of disposing of obsolete records may be conducted. It also provides the ready means by which archival records may be identified and retained.

SUBREGIONAL TALKING BOOKS LIBRARY

The Talking Books Library of the Brevard County Library System was initiated in August, 1988, as the ninth Subregional library in the Florida network serving the blind and physically handicapped. Begun under the auspices of a Library Services and Construction Act grant, the program was funded by the County the following year and has become an integral part of the overall service provided by the System. In cooperation with the National Library Service of the Library of Congress and the Regional Library located in Daytona Beach, the service provides books and magazines on cassette tapes and records as well as the equipment needed to play them. Braille, while not housed in the Brevard County Talking Books Library, is available to readers from the Regional Library. The Talking Books service was originally established by an act of Congress in 1931.

The program is available to anyone who is unable to see conventional print clearly and comfortably for a reasonable length of time or who cannot hold a book, turn pages, or focus because of muscle or nerve deterioration or paralysis. The physical condition qualifying a person for this service may also be temporary, as in recuperation from eye surgery or from an accident.

Equipment (record and cassette tape players, etc.) and books are mailed to and from the user's home postage free, and there is no time limit. Mailing cards and containers come with each item for easy patron return. Catalogs in large print and on cassette are periodically mailed to patrons of the program. Borrowers may choose from best sellers, Westerns, mysteries, romances, classic novels, juvenile books, and biographies and other non-fiction titles. There are also over one hundred (100) magazines available as well as music scores. In addition to publications from the Regional Library, patrons also receive a local newsletter composed of items of interest and/or of service.

In October of 1990, the program received a Library Services and Construction Act grant to purchase assistive reading devices. Each library in the System houses a collection of fifty-one (51) devices which circulate for a period of three (3) weeks. The premise behind this grant was to make the various devices available for use in the individuals' homes to assure practicality and appropriateness before purchases were made. Therefore, each collection also includes catalogs of suppliers of the devices for patron usage. Grant funding was received for a second year which facilitated the purchase of twelve (12) Optelec 20/20+ closed circuit televisions (CCTV's). At that time, there were thirteen (13) libraries in the System. Since one library had previously been given a CCTV, all libraries were able to provide their low vision patrons with the capability of enlarging reading materials up to sixty (60) times the original. The grant program was funded by the County in October, 1992, and has been combined with the Talking Books Library to provide assistive devices. Funding f or FY 92-93 provided for the purchase of two (2) additional CCTV's for the fourteenth library in the System and for the Talking Books Library.

The Brevard County Library System continually strives to provide services to meet the needs of all County residents. To this end, additional equipment has been purchased to facilitate service to those with disabilities. A Versapoint Braille Embosser provides the means to produce materials locally in Braille. The System has four sets of the Phonic Ear listening devices which are available for programs. Several libraries have telecommunications devices (TDDs) , and plans are for the TDD in Talking Books to be accessible for making private long distance calls. For those with mobility limitations, the Central Brevard Library has a motorized cart, and the Talking Books Library has a wheelchair available. The System is sensitive to the needs of those with limitations', and the devices/equipment available for them will continue to reflect that sensitivity.

The Talking Books Library of the Brevard County Library System echoes the commitment of the System to provide service to all County residents. To this end, a vigorous and enthusiastic public relations program is on-going in an effort to locate those who would benefit from this unique service. As the County population continues to grow, the need grows likewise, and the Brevard County Talking Books Library stands ready to meet this need effectively and efficiently.

Broward County Library

Broward County Library is a consolidated library system, chartered in 1974 by the Broward County Commission. It is a division of the Community Services Department, a unit of Broward County Government.

The system started with only two municipal libraries: the Fort Lauderdale Library (consisting of three libraries, Fort Lauderdale, Riverland and Mizell and two bookmobiles) and the Hollywood Library. The fledgling system had a budget of $1.3 million dollars.

A 1978 bond issue provided a basis for the existing library system and was preceded by a strong public relations effort. A library committee made recommendations to the county for the size of the bond issue and the number of facilities to be included. A special task force was organized to "sell" the concept.

As a result of that bond issue, 13 facilities were either built or expanded. The Imperial Point Library, which opened in April 1988, was the last facility to be completed from the funding of the 1978 bond issue. From 1978 to the present, over $60 million dollars has been spent for the construction of facilities, including the Main Library building. Four libraries were built with federal community block grants.

The Main Library opened in April 1984. This eight-story library was hailed as the symbol of a resurgence of business, government and cultural activity in downtown Fort Lauderdale. The award-winning glass-and-keystone 256,000 square-foot facility was designed by Marcel Breuer Associates of New York and Paris.

The library contains a six-story atrium, the Broward Community Technology Center, a Friends Gift Shop, Talking Book library, a 300-seat auditorium, the NationsBank Small Business Resource Center, the Florida Diagnostic and Learning Resources System Media Center, the Bienes Center for the Literary Arts and a full-service research library with over one million volumes.

Broward County Library now has 33 facilities located throughout the county. Due to increasing population and public demand, the system is expected to grow to over 40 facilities in the next 10 years, including new libraries in underserved or developing areas of the county.

Broward County Library aims to be the primary information resource for the general public and also a primary education resource for people not currently attending schools or universities. The Main Library serves as the library for the University Tower (the downtown Broward campus for Broward Community College, Florida Atlantic University and Florida International University), and for Keiser College.

The library system operates on a multi-tiered concept of service. The Main and Regional libraries provide university-level reference and research materials. The large branches offer community college-level materials and service, the medium and small branches provide materials and service appropriate for their community and the reading centers provide best-sellers and popular materials for quick visits by busy patrons.

One of the main goals of the Broward County Library is to create a system that offers top-notch public service. The library system compares favorably with other libraries in major metropolitan areas. It is the ninth largest library system in the United States, with a staff of more than 700 full and part-time employees, including 200 professional librarians.

The staff is supplemented by more than 2,000 volunteers, who donate the equivalent of 55 full-time staff positions each year. The collection has over two million items, including books, records, books-on-tape, computer software, CDs and more. The annual budget is over $30 million.

Community members use the library and support it in many ways. Almost a million residents, about two-thirds of the county population, have library cards -- well above the national average of about forty percent.

In 1997, more than six million visits were made to Broward County libraries and almost seven million items were checked out. The reference staff answered 3,400,000 questions and over 300,000 people attended programs at the library.

In 1996, Broward County Library was named "1996-1997 Library of the Year," the highest honor a U.S. public library can receive, by *Library Journal*, a leading professional library magazine, and Gale Research, a major publisher of reference materials.

In a letter notifying the library of the award, Dedria Bryfonski, president and CEO of Gale Research, said, "The vision, commitment and successful implementation of Broward County Library's numerous initiatives is a sterling example of creative community service that can serve as a model for libraries nationwide to share resources throughout their communities."

In the award cover story in *Library Journal*, editor John Berry wrote "With myriad strategic partnerships, a respected staff development program and a 'something for everyone' approach to library service, Broward County is the model of an outstanding library."

The Southeast Florida Library Information Network (SEFLIN) nominated the library. "Broward County Library demonstrates an understanding of the key principles of successful partnerships. Everyone benefits, everyone shares the success and the real winners are the community members being served," wrote Elizabeth Curry, executive director of SEFLIN.

THE LIBRARY FOUNDATION'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LIBRARY AND TO OTHER LIBRARY SUPPORT GROUPS

The **Broward County Commission** funds the library's basic services. This covers about 86 percent of the Library budget. About 10 percent of the budget comes from the Florida State Aid to Libraries. The total amount of State Aid is voted on by the state legislature and is divided up among Florida's public libraries according to the size and budget of the library system.

A 14-member **Library Advisory Board** is appointed by the county commission, two named by each commissioner. The board's purpose is to make recommendations to the library director for spending and service priorities and to recommend policy.

The Friends of the Broward County Library is a private non-profit organization. It is an umbrella group which coordinates the individual Friends of the Library groups for each facility. Local Friends groups focus their efforts on the particular library they serve.

The Friends' role is to foster public support and promote greater understanding of library services through advocacy, special programs and volunteer efforts. The Friends also provide some of the funds used to send librarians to professional conferences, and lobby for increases in State Aid.

The **Broward Public Library Foundation** is a private, non-profit organization devoted to raising private contributions and creating corporate partnerships for special events, projects and services.

Bureau of Braille and Talking Book Library Services

Before 1941, Braille and Talking Book Library Services were almost inaccessible and unknown to many Floridians with visual and physical impairments that prevented them from using conventional printed materials. In 1941, Helen Keller addressed a joint meeting of the Florida Legislature; House Bill 153 was passed and enacted as Chapter 20714 of the Laws of Florida, Act of 1941, which created the Florida Council for the Blind as a State Board under the Welfare Board.

One of the first concerns of the Florida Council for the Blind was to register individuals with visual impairments and provide assistance as deemed necessary. One of these was to start talking book and Braille library service for those eligible. Books were on rigid discs and Braille books were loaned free of charge from the Kriegshaber Library for the Blind in Atlanta, Georgia. Talking book machines were available through the Florida Council for the Blind which was designated as a "distributing agency for talking book machines in Florida." The standard talking book machine was electric or spring driven record player, reproducer of recordings, with an amplifier. At this time Braille and talking book library services were only available to individuals who were visually impaired and 18 years old or older. The only charge for services was the $ 1.00 delivery charge for the talking book machine.

In 1950, the Library of Congress authorized the establishment of the Florida Talking Book Library. The Florida Council for the Blind designated a 4,000 square foot WWII WAC's barracks in the Welch Complex in Daytona Beach. A staff of six served 900 Floridians with visual impairments. Braille library service continued from Georgia. In 1975, the Florida Talking Book Library became the Florida Regional Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The library was enlarged to accommodate a circulating Braille collection. Passage of Federal legislation opened talking book and Braille library services to qualified individuals under 18 and those with physical disabilities which made it impossible for them to use conventional printed materials.

Since 1970 the Braille and Talking Book Library has endeavored to bring Talking Book Library Services to customers in their own county through the founding of Subregional Libraries which can bring library service to the customer with a more personal touch. In order for a Library System to qualify there must be at least 1,000 customers registered in their service area. The Library System must allocate personnel and space as required in the Revised Standards and guidelines of Service fur the Library of Congress Network of Libraries for the Blind and Physically Handicapped 1995, Association of Specialized and Cooperative Library Agencies, American Library Association. There are now eleven Subregional libraries:

1971	Bradenton	Manatee and Sarasota Counties
1972	Orlando	Orange and Osceola Counties
1973	Riviera Beach	Palm Beach County
1975	Jacksonville	Duval and Nassau Counties
	Tampa	Hillsborough County
1976	Miami	Dade and Monroe Counties
1978	Ft. Lauderdale	Broward, Couaty
1987	Ft. Myers	Lee County
1988	Cocoa	Brevard County
1990	Pensacola	Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties
1993	Largo	Pinellas County

The Charlotte Glades Library System

(Charlotte and Glades Counties)

ENGLEWOOD CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Early 1960s – Josephine Cortes headed a grass-roots effort to start library services in the Charlotte County area of Englewood. These efforts bore fruit on May 25, 1962 when a new library first opened. The first person to run the library was Harriet Ives.

1963 – Leolyn Mercer was appointed librarian. The library housed a collection of 3,869 books. Also in this year, the library moved to a new location at 1560 McCall Road.

1970 -- A new facility, located at 1520 Placida Road, opened to the public.

1971 -- The first full-time librarian, Elizabeth Childs, was hired. Mrs. Mercer retired at that time.

1989 -- An entirely new 8,000 square foot library building was opened to the public. The new facility was located at 3450 McCall Road - and this is still the location today.

1996 -- The Englewood Charlotte Library, along with other libraries in the library system, went online with a new automated circulation system.

MURDOCK PUBLIC LIBRARY

1985 -- The new Murdock Public Library and accompanying library system administrative/technical processing facility opened at 18400 Murdock Circle. The library opened its doors with a small core collection of 200 books. Mary Ellen Fuller, the

Director of the Library System , acted as Head Librarian for the Murdock branch. The Library became part of the county-wide system.

1995 --Approximately 9,000 square feet was added to the library, including a public-use meeting room and a children's department. The expanded facility was opened to the public on January 4, 1995. Nancy Razvoza was appointed the first librarian of the Murdock Public Library.

1996 -- The Murdock Library, along with the Englewood Charlotte, Port Charlotte, and Punta Gorda Public Libraries, went online with a new automated circulation system.

PORT CHARLOTTE PUBLIC LIBRARY

1961 - A small store-front library was started on Easy Street as part of the newly established Port Charlotte University's operations.A retired librarian, Hortense Wright, volunteered to organize the library. Local citizens donated books and magazines.

1962 - PCU moved its base of operations to a building at fire station on the west access road by Easy Street. This added space to the library as well.

1963 - The Port Charlotte Library joined the Punta Gorda and Englewood Public Libraries to form a Charlotte County System.

1965 -- PCU and the library again moved...this time across the street to Sunny.Dell Plaza. At this time the county named a library board to supervise operations. Mrs. Margaret Rippere was appointed librarian. A Friends of the Port Charlotte organization was formed to promote the library and its services. Myrtle Burnett became its first president.

1968 - A new library facility, located on the corner of Gertrude and Aaron Streets opened in January. A small room adjacent to the library and the PCU classrooms was set aside for a used book and coffee shop run by the Friends organization. Mr. and Mrs. William Payne were the first managers of the shop

1996 - The library was renovated with new carpeting on both floors and the rearrangement of book stacks and other furnishingsoccurred. The library also went online with a new automated circulation system. with the other libraries in the county-wide system. Steve Toepper was named librarian for the facility.

PUNTA GORDA PUBLIC LIBRARY

1905 -- The first library was housed in the Episcopal Church in Punta Gorda.

1914 -- The Library moved to the Masonic Temple on Sullivan Street.

1926 -- The roof blew off the library during a severe storm, necessitating another move. The library relocated to the Woman's Club, also on Sullivan Street.

1958 -- The town of Punta Gorda decided that it wanted to have an actual library building. Several craftsmen and contractors donated a building at 260 West Retta Esplanade. The land was also donated.

1963 -- The Punta Gorda Public Library joined the Port Charlotte and Englewood Libraries to form a county library system.

1970 -- Jean Obermayer became librarian and remained so until her retirement in 1981.

1973 -- Funds were raised for a new and larger building to house the library. The city donated the land in exchange for the old library facility.

1974 -- The new building at 424 West Henry Street opened to the public in July.

1983 -- Mary Ann Walton became head librarian and has since retired. Jay Carter now holds that position.

1996 -- The, library, along with other libraries in the countywide system, went online with a new automated circulation system.

1998 -- Plans have begun to expand the library and the first phase will be completed by September 1998.

Note: The Glades Public Library is also a part of this system, but its history is not available.

Citrus County Library System

The first library in Citrus County was founded by the Women's Club in Inverness in 1917. The Lions Club started the Floral City Library in 1958 in a former gift shop. 1959 was a red-letter year for the County during which both the Crystal River and Homosassa Libraries were established. Hernando Library began as one shelf of books among the voting booth, piano and punching bags of the Hernando Civic Club. These five libraries joined the Central Florida Regional Library System in 1961.

In October 1970, Beverly Hills Library joined the system. All furnishings for this library were purchased with funds donated by local residents.

Friends of the Crystal River and Inverness Libraries spearheaded a campaign to establish a Special Library Taxing District. The referendum passed in March 1984. Plans were immediately started for building new libraries in Crystal River and Inverness.

With the establishment of the Citrus County Library System on October 1, 1987, administration of the libraries became local. No longer part of the Regional System, the County can now establish and work towards its own goals for better library service based on the needs of the local communities.

The citizens of Citrus County will celebrate the opening of the new Coastal and Lakes Region Libraries on November 22, 1987. These facilities will allow us to serve the residents of the County with improved reference collections, expanded programming and professional staff who are ready to supply their informational and recreational reading needs.

Clay County Public Library System

The first library in Clay County open to the public was a small collection maintained by the Village Improvement Association at its club house in Green Cove Springs. Other small lending libraries were established and maintained by interested organizations in municipal areas of the County.

In 1961 representatives of many women's organizations throughout the County began an active movement to establish a County Library System that would serve the needs of all Clay County citizens. Due to the tireless effort of these and other interested citizens, the Clay County Board of County Commissioners agreed to set aside funds in 1961 to match grant funds available from the Federal Government and create the Clay County Public Library.

The first library in the new system opened its doors at a storefront location in Green Cove Springs on November 25, 1961. The first bookmobile was purchased in 1962, and outreach services to outlying areas of the County began in March 1962.

New bookmobile was acquired in 1994, the fourth vehicle to be purchased by Lee county for the library.

After the first library was established in Green Cove Springs, the towns of Keystone Heights and Orange Park agreed to provide space for small libraries.

The Keystone Heights Library opened in January 1962 in the Women's Club building. Two months later the Orange Park Library opened its doors to the public.

The Keystone Heights Library was destroyed by fire on February 24, 1962. A cooperative effort between the Friends of the Library and the City of Keystone Heights relocated the Library to a small building in Theme Park in 1964.

Population growth in the late 1960's mandated that new space be provided for the Library system. Funds were made available in 1969 to design and build a new Headquarters Library in Green Cove Springs. The facility was completed and opened its doors to the public in 1970.

The Town of Orange Park provided space in its new complex in 1969 for the Orange Park Library. In 1976 the Orange Park Library moved from its Town Hall location to its current site on Plainfield Avenue.

In the late 1970's County population growth created a need for another branch library to serve patrons in the Middleburg/Clay-Hill area. The first library was a storefront operation on Main Street. Land for a permanent library was donated to the County by the Devrin Company on CR 218. A combination of grant funds and local contributions resulted in the construction of the current 6,000 sq. ft. facility that opened its doors to the public in September 1986.

The northern end of Clay County (Greater Orange Park) experienced an extraordinary population influx during the 1980s. In 1988 formal planning began for constructing a library facility that would serve the needs of citizens in this area. In November 1992 a new 28,000 sq. ft. facility was opened to the public.

In 1997 the Library installed a new SIRSI automation system that should serve the citizens of Clay County well into the 21st century. County-wide digital Internet access will become available at all library facilities early in 1998.

Clearwater Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

Clearwater was a small farming community in 1900 when 343 people lived on the bluff overlooking Clear Water Bay. The next ten years marked the introduction of a telephone exchange, electric lights, an ice factory, the paving of Fort Harrison Street, and the addition of 848 citizens. A fire department was established in 1910 after the entire business block burned on the north side of Cleveland Street and Osceola Avenue.

Pinellas was established when the peninsula, formerly a part of Hillsborough, was re-defined as a separate county. Clearwater was named the county seat by the simple expedient of the overnight building of a courthouse. Residents began to invest time and effort in becoming more than a tourist mecca and agricultural center.

In 1911 the Clearwater Library Association opened a subscription library on the second floor of Peoples Bank. The next few years, its use and citizen support were enough to convince the Carnegie Foundation to approve a request for $10,000 to build a permanent public library. For grant approval, the City of Clearwater had to provide a site and promise support and maintenance.

That same year Morton F. Plant Hospital was constructed as the first health facility within twenty miles. The Clearwater News printed an editorial: "Support the Library...One of the finest assets a town can possibly have is a good library...None will help make for a successful and happy community in the future as a good library. Already started is a collection of books, which could be made to serve as a nucleus for a larger and free public library - one owned by the town...(It is) a matter of civic pride. A public library, free to all the home people, ministering to their special wants and needs, is no longer considered a luxury, it is fast becoming a necessity to all progressive communities, and Clearwater should not be behind her sister towns; it can and should become a leader." (1/8/14) This letter, from Clearwater Library Association Board member E.H. Jones, must have reflected the popular feeling, for in May, 1915, a referendum approved City Ordinance 154: "To provide for the creation and maintenance of a Free Public Library, and to provide for the establishment for a Library Board as a department of the City Government, and to prescribe its duties and powers." The next month, a special tax was passed to purchase the Jeffords/Somers site at Osceola and Sunset, and to provide maintenance.

The mayor and Town Council approved the name "Clearwater Public Library" and accepted the Carnegie money. Architect F.J. Kennard, of Tampa, designed the building, and construction contract was won by G.A. Miller at $8,781. The balance of the Carnegie grant was used for furnishings, screens, and a Remington typewriter. The Women's Club arranged the dedicatory reception, and the Library Board hosted the festivities on September 14, 1916. Miss Margaret Duncan was appointed Librarian at a salary of $50 per month, with a possible increase during the winter season. Services of the Library were publicized on the Strand Theater's moving picture screen.

The first year 1,277 visitors borrowed 2,792 books. The Library had a reading room with two Clearwater newspapers, the *Tampa Tribune*, *Chicago Tribune*, magazines, and reference books including the 11th edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica*. There was a rental shelf (two cents per day with five cents minimum) in addition to the purchased and donated circulating collection of the "very latest literature." Two books could be checked out at once, only one of which could be fiction.

Temporary residents, as well as taxpayers, had free use of the Library, providing a merchant signed their card application or a two dollar deposit was made. Miss Duncan was Pinellas County Director for the American Library Association in the United War Campaign during World War I. She spent her vacations enrolled in classes in Library Science and attended professional meetings. She resigned in 1918 to become Head of Children's Work at Jacksonville Public Library.

Her apprentice, Constance Chase, was the only staff member and depended on volunteer help to continue the Children's Hour. Grace Mease was appointed the new Library Director in 1920. A telephone was installed. 1,246 of 2,427 residents were card members. The Library Board commenced the encouragement and support of the professional development of the library staff. Patrons began a tradition of donations to augment the small book budget.

Notices were placed in all the hotels, and winter visitors expanded the ranks of readers. Library administration in 1925 hired additional personnel: two assistants, a parttime employee for the workroom, and a janitor. The Board received petitions for more card files and a heating system. The impact of the Depression on the Clearwater Public Library was similar to the effect on libraries across the nation: less money and more patrons. The budget was cut necessarily and repeatedly. The building, now over 14 years old, needed repairs. When the City Manager turned down the lowest available bid of $40 to fix a damaged ceiling, the Librarian bought the materials and hired laborers to fix it for $13.65. The City Manager reimbursed her. An emergency arose in 1932: faced with a sudden budget cut of $1000, the Board unanimously approved the dismissal of Mease as the most expedient measure. Annie Owen, formerly an assistant, was promoted to Library Director at her same salary.

Over the next ten years the staff increased from three to five assistants, supplemented by high school student apprentices and volunteers. The women managed to continue Children's Book Week celebrations with talks in the schools, poster contests, and programs. The circulation of 18,047 books topped 100,000 in 1935 in spite of the fact road repairs near the Library lasted six weeks. The Sunset Point Home Demonstration Club requested a deposit library collection. The Board approved the project, referring to it as the first branch library. A Works Progress Administration book-mending project increased the library staff by five workers and a supervisor.

Space was at a premium, seating was inadequate, and catalog cards were stored in cardboard boxes. The Librarian and Board President Taver Bayly made the first appeal to the City Commission for more space. An addition to the Library, which at the time faced Sunset (the drive- through in the parking lot south of the present building), opened in 1939. That year's Annual Report thanked the city for the enlarged library, "We have people coming to our library from other larger towns of the state to consult our reference books." Over 1200 school children from local schools and neighboring towns visited during Book Week.

The expanded space and gifts, including Mrs. Flagg's doll collection, led to the opening of a museum in 1942. World War II brought growth and development to the small city of 10,136. Special library cards were issued to the many servicemen and their families stationed in the area. There were fewer winter visitors. Book delivery was slow due to transportation limitations.

Some staff transferred to more closely related war employment. Library Director Annie Owen was struck and killed in an automobile accident in March, 1942. Based on a Civil Service examination and the City Manager's recommendation, the City Commission appointed Sarah Byers to succeed Owen. An assistant since 1934, she was well qualified to continue and expand the goals of the Clearwater Public Library. The City Manager recommended wage increases due to the higher cost of living, and Byers' salary was advanced to $137.59 per month.

The Victory Book Campaign, managed by the Committee for Civilian Defense, found a collection and distribution point in the library basement. The Boy Scouts had an exclusive corner of the Children's Department and they contributed many volunteer hours.

When World War II ended, a "refrigerated" drinking fountain was installed. Air conditioning was years away. When staff and library supporters appraised the building's condition, it was evident extensive repairs and redecoration were necessary. Work returned to normal after much renovation: selecting, processing, cataloging, shelving, mending, circulating books, book reviews, children's programs, and consulting with other area libraries. A population growth in the greater Clearwater area was beginning.

As early as 1917 Library Board minutes had noted a discussion for a "colored library proposition," but the main plant had been the focus of all efforts until black citizens brought the real need for a branch library to Byers' attention. Horace Carson remembers, "In the late 1940s there was a growing feeling in the black population that we should have a library for our children." The City Commission agreed that if they could find a building and a librarian the city would fund it. Christine Morris opened the doors at Pennsylvania and Cedar Street on March 15, 1950.

The rented library in the North Greenwood area soon outgrew its quarters. A new building, designed by Architect Eugene Beach, opened on Palmetto Street next to Pinellas High School in September, 1962 with 15,000 books. The Edward Allen Henry, Jr. Special Collection on Negro Culture and History was authorized in 1970 to be housed at that branch, where it remains today.

The population of Clearwater increased to 15,535 in 1954, and City Manager Middleton recommended the Library's long-range plans include branch libraries in the northern and eastern sectors of the city. Taxable property valuation was forty-four million dollars. The city acquired property adjoining the Main Library, as once again the building had reached a saturation point.

Basement flooding, ceiling and wall repair were familiar problems. Purchases and gifts, such as those of Donald Roebling, mushroomed the book collection to 60,000 cataloged and 15,000 uncataloged books. Circulation for July, 1954, peaked at 14,292.

According to Sarah Byers, "Despite the fact that a number of one-time patrons have ceased to call because of traffic and parking problems, and because some of the bicycle riders are forbidden to cross the two railroad systems, we simply have not room for our stacks of books or for the people using them."

> The Florida State Library in Tallahassee was petitioned for advice and assistance. An extension representative was sent in late 1950 to survey the property, the community, and to assess goals and needs. John Hall Jacobs of New Orleans also served as a consultant in 1960. He reported to the City Commission, "We have a problem." He advocated demolishing the old Carnegie building and totally rebuilding before present and future obligations could be met. Recommendations included additional staff, a community meeting room, purchase of more books, bookmobiles, and a larger building for the proposed branch library.

Due to cost constraints, the City Commission, acting on the recommendations, decided to renovate the Main Library rather than rebuild. The dedication was celebrated December 1, 1961.

The decade of 1960 saw construction of the small branch libraries, the organization of the Friends of the Library, and the provision of Main Library service on Saturday afternoon at the request of schools. Students were required to register attendance.

Civic and service groups, such as the Junior Women's Club, the American Association of University Women, the Junior League, and the League of Women Voters and others responded to library needs by providing time and support beyond public funding.

The Beach Branch Library opened July 21, 1961. Located at 40 Causeway Blvd., under the roof of the Memorial Civic Center, the Beach Library is open from 9:00 to 5:00 Monday through Friday.

1962 saw the start of the Wickman Memorial Collection, a special collection of materials about the sea, housed at the Beach Library. This special collection began with donations, and continues to receive donations. It is further augmented with purchases chosen to round out the collection, supply current materials, and fill in any gaps in the existing collection. Both historical materials and items for current nautical use are in this collection. From battleships to sunken treasure hunting, in print and video formats, this special collection contains materials of interest to many peoples.

The momentum of growth and change in the area accelerated, reflecting added services at the Library. The Friends of the Library reorganized in 1971 and grew, in the next ten years, to well over 500 members who, through books sales and other fundraising projects, supported the Library in many ways. The Red Cross inaugurated service to homebound residents in 1974. An interlibrary loan service was introduced to serve Clearwater patrons. Different options for library service in east Clearwater were explored, as hopes rose and fell for the building of a new large branch. The projected population growth statistics mandated the eventual necessity for an additional branch in the northern section of the city. As a temporary measure, until money for those branches was available, a "Twig" was opened in 1978 in the training room of Fire Station #5 by the Clearwater Mall. Though limited in space and books, requests for volumes from the Main Library could be filled there, and it was an immediate success.

Elliott Hardaway replaced Sarah Byers as Library Director in 1971. Coming from the University of South Florida, with extensive experience in libraries and management, Hardaway's arrival heralded new development in the life of the library. Hiring professional librarians for Reference and Children's Services, he brought the staffing up to American Library Association standards. Soon, the "Real World" youth area became a popular meeting place for young adults. Puppet shows, contests, story hours, and other programs for children and adults were presented at all library locations as increased staff made more presentations possible.

The Commission considered once again the renovation, expansion or rebuilding of the Main Library. There were several issues: should it be moved to the east? Patrons, four nationally known consultants, the City Administration, and the Library Board agreed that it should remain on Osceola Avenue in the downtown district. Should the old building be razed or repaired and enlarged? Eventually it was decided to retain and modernize the old building at less cost than new construction.

When Hardaway retired in July, 1976, the issues were being discussed. Althea Andersen was named Acting Director. During the next two years a computerized circulation system was proposed.

Nancy Zussy was appointed Library Director in 1978. Construction was funded for improvements at the Main Library by a $500,000 donation from Mr. and Mrs. William Adler, $200,000 from an LSCA grant, and $800,000 from the City of Clearwater. The Library Board, including ex-officio member representatives from local high schools, were jubilant. Early the next year the Commission approved a contract with Architects Watson and Company, and a construction time table was set. Although branches were important, it seemed best to concentrate immediate efforts on restoring the Main Library as the heart of the system. Well attended festivities dedicated the Adler addition on October 19, 1980.

Several years earlier, the projected 1990 population for Clearwater was approximately 80,000. The 1980 U.S. Census figure was 85,528. Library Director Nancy Zussy resigned to serve as Deputy Director of the Washington State Library. Main Library problems of space were temporarily settled and attention returned to the building of branches. Aleta Cozart of the City Manager's office served as interim Director until the appointment of Linda Mielke in June, 1981. Having coordinated twenty-three libraries in Maryland, with extensive experience in marketing and management, her enthusiasm for public service and interest in library technology brought a new perspective to the Clearwater Public Library System.

Mielke soon presented an outline of services and materials for two full-sized branches. A campaign for support through the passing of a bond referendum provided new focus for the energies of all library supporters, including Dean Young, Blondie, and Dagwood! Though the 1982 referendum failed, as had one in 1977, it was clear that the citizens were, in large part, behind the construction of community libraries. While supporting the concept of a county wide system, as it had for years, Clearwater needed more library buildings. The City Commission approved a .25 millage increase for an east library. For years different sites had been considered, but the Hunt property at Drew and Belcher Streets was selected. Ground was broken for the Clearwater East Library in May, 1984.

That same year the automated circulation system was installed and the Greater Clearwater Public Library Foundation, Inc. was organized. The Foundation formulated two major objectives: to provide library enhancements beyond the traditional tax-funded services, and to provide library access to the unserved. Projects have included the establishment of the DATABASE PLACE, an online reference service; and the Youth and Family Assistance Program, which funds "scholarship" cards for children residing outside the city. The Friends of the Clearwater Library also supported the Youth and Family Assistance Program. Since its inception, the Friends of the Clearwater Library has instituted many well received projects and programs, including the Adler Literary Arts Festival and the Scholar's Choice Lecture and Discussion Series.

Construction of library branches was of primary concern and interest. The North Greenwood Branch Library was renovated in 1985, and September of that same year marked the East Library dedication. The Commission approved use of $1 million in surplus funds for construction of the Countryside Library in September, 1986. It's 15,000 square feet floor plan, similar to the East Library, reflects its exterior surroundings. The building was dedicated on October 23, 1988. Access to any public library in Clearwater meant access to books in all five facilities through the automated catalog. Staff and supporters now train their sights on long-range goals and objectives indicative of the library service needs of their patrons as the twentieth century ends.

In 1991, Linda Mielke accepted a position in the Ann Arundel County (Md.) Library System. During the following year, the Library was led by a Management Team of Division Managers, Althea Andersen, Carolyn Moore, Marsha McGrath, and Linda Lange, under the supervision of Deputy City Manager, Kathy Rice. At the end of that experimental period, the decision was made to hire a Library Director. After a nation-wide search, Dr. Arlita Hallam, of Fort Worth, Texas, was hired and began her duties on October 1, 1992.

Dunedin Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

The year 1895 saw many remarkable events: The Sino-Japanese War ended. A German scientist named Wilhelm Roentgen discovered x-rays. In France, the Lumière brothers gave the world its first public showing of motion pictures. H.G. Wells wrote *The Time Machine*. Baseball great Babe Ruth was born, and volleyball was invented by a Massachusetts YMCA director.

Closer to home, Florida celebrated its 50th year of statehood. In February, the Big Freeze, coming hard upon the heels of another freeze 6 weeks earlier, damaged citrus groves and caused many farmers to abandon their land and return north. And on April 25, the Dunedin Public Library was created--the first library in Pinellas County.

The library owes its beginnings to a group of wealthy midwestern yachting enthusiasts who regularly spent their winters in Dunedin. Christopher B. Bouton of Chicago decided that Dunedin needed a library and graciously donated some 200 books from his personal collection for that purpose. Finding a home for the fledgling library presented little problem inasmuch as Mr. Bouton's brother, Nathaniel Sherman Bouton, owned a building which had been erected in the 1880's in Edgewater Park and which housed the Dunedin Yacht and Skating Club. The first floor of the building contained the Club's meeting room and private apartments; the second floor housed a large room which was used for dances, parties, and roller skating.

On April 25, 1895, Nathaniel S. Bouton deeded the building to be used as a public library and free reading room. These facilities would be located on the main floor, with plans for a school room to serve the winter residents' children. The second floor would continue to be used for lectures and entertainment, Mr. Bouton stipulating that "no use of the Hall or building shall be permitted inconsistent with the moral and social good of the community." The building soon became commonly known as Library Hall and was the site of an annual community Christmas party for many years in the early part of the 1900's. Dunedin residents would later fondly remember the huge Christmas tree which graced the Hall and the presents given to each child, as well as the square dances held there each Fourth of July.

The Dunedin Library Association was duly formed and charged with the responsibility of running the library; volunteers staffed it on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Charlotte (Mrs. Henry) Grant supervised the library. During World War I, supervision fell to Mrs. Clarence B. Collins and her daughter, Miss Louise C. Collins.

In 1920, when the collection had grown from the original 200 books to over 2000 volumes, the Dunedin Woman's Club took over the running of the library and installed Belle Carlton (Mrs. S. Arthur) Davies as the first librarian, in which capacity she served until 1936.

The 1927 land bust, coupled with the Great Depression, eventually made it too costly for the Woman's Club to continue overseeing the library, and in late 1934 representatives of the Club approached the Dunedin City Commission with the proposal that the city take over library operations. On February 19, 1935, the Commission voted to assume responsibility for the library. Library Hall was deeded to the city and on April 1 the library officially became a part of the City of Dunedin. Mary (Mrs. William Lovett) Douglas was appointed librarian to oversee the collection of 7000 books. The book budget was a whopping $100 per year!

The library continued to be housed in Library Hall for another 20 years with very few changes. In 1941, a large tower was added to the Hall so that Civil Defense League volunteers could provide 24-hour watches for war planes and submarines during World War II. Spotters were expected to phone in descriptions of every plane which flew over.

By the mid-1950's, even with a staff of just one full-time librarian and one part-time assistant, it became apparent that the collection was outgrowing its snug home in Library Hall. After much discussion, the city set aside $11,000 toward the construction of a new facility. As head librarian, Mrs. Douglas was joined by her husband in spear-heading a highly successful fund-raising drive which garnered an additional $10,000 in public contributions, and in 1956 a new library was built at the corner of Virginia Street and Louden Avenue, on the grounds of what had formerly been the Dunedin Elementary School. Sadly, the old Library Hall was demolished not long after.

Mrs. Douglas retired in 1957 and was succeeded by Annie Elizabeth (Mrs. W. Dwight) Niven, who served as supervisor until 1959, when she was officially appointed library director. The library's collection continued to grow steadily and to attract the interest and use of more and more of the community. As a direct result of this, the Junior Service League of Dunedin (then called the Dunedin Community League) became the driving force behind the creation of the group known as the Dunedin Friends of the Library, Inc., in February 1962. The Friends, whose purposes include financial support and promoting the library's interests in the community, produced a history of the library in 1964 and have remained a strongly active group to this day.

1962 also saw the library become a "thoroughly modern" enterprise with the installation of an electric charging system. No more hand-written checkout ledgers and book cards, and no more date stamps attached to the end of a pencil! The electric charging system, which was quite sophisticated for its time, ensured that fewer errors occurred at checkout and sped up the entire process.

It was at about this same time that it once again became apparent that the library and its collection of 18,000 books was outgrowing its quarters. Earnest discussions commenced regarding the necessary funding and possible sites. In the end, the Dunedin City Commission pledged $55,000 toward the building of a new library, and the Friends organized a fund-raising drive which netted an additional $10,000. In May 1964, the new library opened at the corner of Main and Grant Streets.

Mrs. Niven retired as director in late 1972 and was slated to be succeeded by Mrs. Elizabeth Bradley in January 1973. However, the appointment of Mrs. Bradley never took place, and in February 1973, Mrs. Lucy Eddy was named library director. She served in that capacity until July 1974, when she was replaced by Miss Sydniciel Shinn.

One of Miss Shinn's first priorities was to find a new home for the ever- growing library. In just 10 years at the Main Street site, the collection had grown to 38,000 volumes; the staff now consisted of 12 full-time and 5 part-time employees.

After intense negotiation with the Publix supermarket chain, the City of Dunedin was able to lease space for the library in the Publix-owned Douglas Shopping Center on Douglas Avenue. Interestingly, this same site had been considered more than 10 years earlier, but had been rejected as unsuitable, and the Main Street site had been chosen instead. Now the library would move into a leased space recently vacated by a W.T. Grant store (the city would eventually purchase the entire shopping center in 1986 for one million dollars). Over 100 people attended the grand opening on December 13, 1976. The former library on Main Street would eventually house Dunedin City Hall.

Two years after moving into its latest home, the library became the fortunate recipient of a special collection, courtesy of the late Dr. John A. Mease, Jr. Dr. Mease, a well-known and much-beloved Dunedin physician, was active in the local chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution and had a deep interest in family history. At his death, he bequeathed his collection of genealogical books and records to the library, and on September 11, 1978, the Mease Memorial Genealogy Collection was formally dedicated. Members of the Caladesi Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution lent their support to the maintenance of the collection and continue to offer genealogical help to library patrons.

During the next decade, the library was able to expand both its collection and its services. The children's department became much more active, offering story times, puppet shows, and other family programs. A weekly film series was offered, and the Great Books and Great Decisions discussion groups began meeting at the library. Circulating art prints were added to the collection. In 1985, the library began lending videotapes, a service which has become increasingly popular over the years. A security system was installed in 1988. By the end of the decade, the collection had expanded to almost 90,000 volumes--a far cry from the original 200!

A change of command occurred in March 1988 with the retirement of Miss Shinn. The following July, Julia J. (Mrs. Raymond L.) Noah, a 10-year library employee, was appointed library director.

The 1990's have so far seen tremendous changes and challenges for the Dunedin Library. In 1990, the library became the sole beneficiary of the estate of Franklin Chase Milliken. Mr. Milliken, a retired lawyer who passed away in May 1989, was described as an "education buff" who used the Dunedin Library often, spending many hours reading and browsing. At his death he generously left $1.3 million to the City of Dunedin to be used for the benefit of the library. Concern over the disbursement of the estate led to the formation of the Library Advisory Committee later that same year, the Committee being charged with the task of recommending to the City Commission how the monies involved should be spent. The board continues to act as a liaison between the library, the City Commission, and the community, and advises the Commission on all library matters.

Another significant event occurred on October 1, 1990, with the establishment of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. The Co-op had long been a dream of many librarians throughout the county who sought to promote true interlibrary cooperation and equal free access to library materials for all citizens of Pinellas County, especially those living in unincorporated areas of the county who had hitherto been without library service. Initially, 12 county libraries including Dunedin participated in the Co-op, with Clearwater joining in October 1994. Card-holders from any of the Co-op libraries may use any member library and its materials at no charge.

On October 1, 1992, the library entered the age of automation. Book cards and electric charging machines vanished, to be replaced by flashing computer terminals and gleaming light pens. Eventually the entire library--card catalog, checkout, reference, and technical services--went online. Through SUNLINE (the Suncoast Library Network), patrons were able to check on the holdings of 15 member libraries throughout the area, including public, academic, and corporate institutions. An increasing number of CD-ROM reference products were also added to the library's collection, enabling patrons to research such diverse topics as telephone numbers, poetry, maps, and periodical articles of every description.

In July 1994, the reins of command were exchanged again when Mrs. Noah retired and was replaced in October by Wendy (Mrs. James P.) Foley.

Growth, a constant theme in the library's history, has once again necessitated new facilities. As we reach its centennial year, Dunedin Library holds nearly 98,000 volumes, circulating over 427,000 items annually. Plans are under way for a new library consisting of 38,000 square feet, to be built at the existing site on Douglas Avenue; completion of the $3.5 million facility is targeted for late 1996 or early 1997.

The passage of a century brings growth and change in any era, but perhaps never more so than in the one hundred years since the founding of Dunedin Library. Since 1895, we have seen a multitude of innovations in our world-- progress from the horse and buggy to the automobile, from the first shaky flight at Kitty Hawk to the first steps of man upon the moon, from the printed page to the laptop computer screen. And beginning with that small collection of 200 books, the library has seen its share of changes as well, as both staff and patrons have come and gone over the years and advancing technology has changed the way we think of libraries. The names and faces may have changed, but over the past century, one thing has remained constant: the vision. From the time Christopher Bouton first shared his private collection with the citizens of Dunedin, to the present day, the Dunedin Library has sought to educate, to entertain, to enlighten, and to inform. May that spirit of dedication remain unwavering as the oldest library in Pinellas County enters its second century of service.

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Emily Taber Public Library

(Macclenny, Baker County)

(Member, New River Public Library Cooperative)

"Friends of the Emily Taber Public Library"

by Michael Hedrick McCollum

1997

Many years ago in a rural area called Macclenny a woman named Emily Taber had a vision for her grandchildren's future. She wanted to provide every opportunity for their academic advancement. She saw the need for a public library in her community.

Mrs. Taber realized she could not see this dream into reality without the help and support of the people of Macclenny. The community support for Mrs. Taber came in the form of an organization called Friends of the Library. Together they met and surpassed their original goals. In the late 1930's amid the great depression, the government had programs set up so the populous could continue to work even though the wages were very low. One of these programs was assisting the set up of libraries in rural areas. The attempted library in Macclenny, Florida had little success at that time, but set the stage for success in the future.

In the year 1961 Emily Taber decided it was time for Baker County to have a library. She had been a part of the group that tried to start a library in the 1930's. During high school her children had problems doing any kind of extra study or research because to get any information they had to travel to Jacksonville. Mrs. Taber vowed her grandchildren would have no such problems. In the summer of 1961, Mrs. Taber and some like-minded friends met at the Lake City Howard Johnson's for coffee and discussed how to accomplish this goal. First, there had to be a building and then the women had to procure books for the building. To compound the issue, the ladies had to work on a very tight budget because they had very little money. The library was a room in the local Episcopal Church in which Mrs. Taber was a member. She filled it with about 625 books given to her through donations ranging from the Jacksonville high society to her local pastor. Mrs. Taber said , "Give me your books, not your money." (Taber interview) The local press gave her scraps of paper and free advertisement. Barnett Bank also contributed to Mrs. Taber's efforts by giving her old envelopes to use as book pockets. She learned to catalogue books from a friend in the Jacksonville library system. Within a year the library outgrew the church and had to move into a larger store front on U.S. 90 in downtown Macclenny where it spent the next three years. Sometime in the mid 1960's the opportunity arose for the library to take over the old county courthouse. To this day, the library resides in this location.

In 1983, Peggy McCollum became head librarian at the Emily Taber Public Library where she had worked and volunteered for a few years prior. Very soon after Mrs. McCollum came into this position the county commissioners called her into their office . The commissioners informed Mrs. McCollum that her annual budget was to be $5,000 , the use of the building and she could run the library with volunteer help. This was not enough money to pay the light bill for a year. This is one of the biggest problems a small town library faces. To politicians , funding a rural public library is way down on the list of important election promises. "When cutting wasteful spending the library looked to be an easy and uncontroversial target," said Mrs. McCollum. Instead of cowering to the pressure of the establishment she called Friends to action. Mrs. McCollum held a library board meeting and a meeting with the library staff and Friends.

They decided to take the commissioners on. The name and phone numbers of the commissioners were put to paper and given to all the patrons of the library. The commissioners had a budget workshop but so many people showed up they had to reschedule the meeting to deal with just the library problem. The week prior to the meeting the commissioners didn't get a moments rest. When the night of the meeting arrived it was held in the courthouse and there was standing room only. Citizens of Macclenny and patrons of the library were allowed to stand up and speak their minds. Speeches ranged from how angry the speaker was to compelling statements on how important the library was in fighting illiteracy in Baker County. The meeting was a victory for the library and the friends The budget was even higher than Mrs. McCollum originally asked for.

In 1983, the friends in Macclenny became an officially recognized group called The Friends of the Emily Taber Public Library. The most important thing the Friends did in the few years after it was established was to get the library put on the National Register as a Historical Landmark. This was important for two reasons. It preserved a part of history as well as set the stage for fundraising and grant applications later. Instead of applying for a grant on just the basis of being a library it also held Historical value as well. In the 1980's when the library building had turned 80 years old it became apparent that fixer up projects were not going to do anymore. A major restoration was going to be needed. A restoration was going to take a lot of money and it had to come from sources other than the local government. Mrs. McCollum started to inquire about the state grants that were available. The problem she found with the grants were that the requesting library had to raise what is called match of support money before a grant application would even be looked at. In this case $25,000 had to be raised in order to get the grant of about $100,000. It seemed like a lofty goal but Mrs. McCollum and the Friends took up the challenge.

Mrs. McCollum and the Friends came up with all kinds of fundraising ideas. In an interview Mrs. McCollum was quoted as saying: "We did everything except stand on the corner and sell ourselves and that is only because our husbands wouldn't let us."

One of the fundraiser ideas was a series of fashion shows the Friends put on. The fashion shows were held at Mrs. McCollum's home. The Friends served a light dinner and area businesses loaned clothes that were modeled by local young ladies. It took about eight years to raise the money needed. In that time the Friends put on about four such fashion shows and many other fundraisers. In the end Mrs. McCollum and the Friends were able to raise the money needed to complete the restoration.

Whether it be on a local, state, or federal level, Friends of the Library are an invaluable part of keeping a library functioning in a community. They can help save it from destruction or just keep the shelves stocked with up to date books. Together with the schools they make up the defense against illiteracy in this country and throughout the world.

Fort Meade Public Library

(Member, Polk County Library Cooperative)

By Mrs. Mary M. Shirley

August 3, 1976

In 1934 the Fort Meade's Woman's Club realized the need of a public library in their small town of approximately 2500 people.

The Woman's Clubhouse was too small to accommodate a library. A committee from the Club contacted Mr. Ben Johnson, a real estate broker with an office at 212 West Broadway. Mr. Johnson had a vacant room behind his office which he gave them permission to use, free of charge for the library.

The Club members gave their own books and magazines and solicited other citizens to donate books, magazines or other materials. A very small library was created. It was open several hours each week with Club members donating their time. Over the years, purchases by Club members and donations helped the library outgrow its small space.

The resourceful Club ladies looked for a larger place. These women should be remembered for their efforts because they are responsible for Fort Meade's library. They are:

- Mrs. Charles Speight
- Mrs. Frank Dampies
- Mrs. George Bell
- Mrs. O.E. Loadholtes
- Mrs. M.M. Loadholtes

- Mrs. K.O. Varn
- Mrs. R.O. Meek
- Mrs. V.O. Woodward
- Mrs. Howard Manning
- Mrs. B.M. Sherertz

Mrs. T.K. White became a very active member after the library was established and gave much of her time to managing the library. She was often assisted by her husband.

The City Commissioners gave this group permission to use a room on the second floor of the City Hall for use as a library. Mrs. T.K. White kept this open fifteen hours a week with little or no help. This space, too, became too small after a few years and it was necessary to find another location.

The Chamber of Commerce built a building on City Property at 75 East Broadway. This was a concrete block building. Most of the blocks and labor was donated by the Chamber of Commerce and was used for this as well as other community functions.

After a few years this group of Commerce members disbanded, leaving the building vacant. This building was built in the shape of a Fort and very well done. It was 700 square feet, with two restrooms.

The City Fathers gladly gave this active group of Woman's Club members permission to use it for the public library. Mrs. White kept this open fifteen hours a week with some volunteer help until about 1967. Miss Betty Hicks kept the library alone for the next year.

In 1964, Mrs. Cody J. Shirley was president of the Woman's Club. Through a friend who worked at the State Library, Mrs. Shirley learned that the Federal Government gave the State Library $1,333,000 to the State Library to be pro-rated throughout the State of Florida for the use of grants for building new libraries, matching the cities dollar for dollar. Mr. William Bevis, who lived in Fort Meade and was an elected representative to the Florida Legislature, was asked by the Woman's Club to help host a meeting with the City and County Commissioners. Mr. Bevis did his best to get a grant through for the library, but all efforts failed.

Mr. Grady Courtney who was City Manager, called a meeting of this group to discuss the City taking over the responsibility of the library. This was brought before the City Commissioners and they voted unanimously to support a public library. Mrs. Cody Shirley was asked to take the management and set up a library property, implementing the Dewey Decimal System. This was started May 1, 1965. At this time the library had 4,000 books, a few more were donated, some 200 from Bartow Public Library and some from individuals.

A library board was appointed by the City to govern its functions. They were as follows:

- Mrs. B.O. Woodward
- Miss Mattye Perle Spier
- Mrs. Monroe Polk
- Mr. William Bevis
- Mr. William J. Loadholtes
- Mrs. W.P. Campas
- Mrs. K.O. Varn

These appointments were made to extend from one to three years. Mrs. Melvin White taking Mrs. Polks place the first year. Mrs. Lealan Lastinger was employed as a substitute for Mrs. Shirley.

In 1966 with the help of two college students, Canter Brown, Jr. and Stephen Prine and Mr. Jack Coulter processed and shelved 4,035 books. Mr. Coulter, a former school librarian, was most helpful in classifying all nonfiction books.

In 1970, Mrs. Lastinger moved from Fort Meade and Mrs. Herman Stephens was employed in her place. In 1975, Mrs. Eugene Jackson was employed as a full-time clerk to help Mrs. Shirley. Kareen proved to be very efficient as well as much loved by all patrons. Few changes being made until 1974, the Board was composed of:

- Mr. Robert Wade Loadholtes, Chairman
- Mr. George Miles, Vice Chairman
- Mr. John J. Campas, Treasurer, co-signing with Mrs. Shirley to pay bills
- Mrs. Carrie Dotson, Secretary
- Mr. Joe Davis
- Mr. Carl Brewington
- Mr. William J. Loadholtes

This group of Board members became interested in a new building, as the present one was filled to capacity. Mr. Everett B. Howe, City Manager, City Commissioners as named, Mr. Joe Hymerling, Mr. Jim Marsh, Mr. William Gunter, Mr. Charles Cooley, and Mr. Joe Davis.

All of these gentlemen were in full agreement with plans for a new building. Through Mr. Joe Hymerling's friend in Tallahassee, Mr. Cecil Beach, who was State Librarian, we learned we could receive a grant form the State of Florida, matching dollar for dollar. The City could furnish $60,000 and the balance would be used for furnishings.

Bids were let out for Architect, when the bids came in, Greenleaf, Telesca, of Clearwater, Florida were awarded the contract. Mr. Bently was the Architect who drew the designs for the library. Mrs. Mary Shirley wrote the building program as well as the narrative sescription plans. Mr. Everett B. Howe was most helpful in every way. The library board worked long and hard each and every one of them. The old building was demolished and the new building was built on the same site. Mr. George Miles, a designer, had the capsule made that these documents are enclosed in. The Rotary Club of Fort Meade have plans to landscape the grounds when the new building is completed.

1998 UPDATE

The new building was completed in 1976. Kay Jackson is Head Librarian, June Gillis is Assistant Librarian and Interlibrary Loan Librarian, Lela Bass, Library Clerk and Judith Hancock is our part-time Library Clerk. Our library Board consists of seven members:

- R.W. Loadloltes, President
- Jim Baggett, Vice-President
- Lorraine Young, Secretary
- Diane Conley
- Arwyn Maker

- Thelma Sturgis, and
- Betty Bowers Johnson, Commissioner Representative

The library is a member of the Florida Public Library Association, the Florida Library Association, the Polk County Library Association and the first library to become a member of the Polk County Library Cooperative.

The library contains 30,868 books and materials for adults, young adults, and children. We offer records, pamphlet files, picture files, and cameras for check-out. We have one computer for public use. We received a Forinet Grant and this year we will add three computers and will also go on the Internet. We provide large print materials and talking books for the handicapped. We also have Homebound Service for the sick and elderly.

We recycle newspapers and aluminum. The proceeds help build our reference and handicapped sections.

We provide two story-times every other week for pre-school children on Thursday mornings at 9:15 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Each summer we participate in the statewide Summer Reading Program for children ages preschool through fifth graders. We have one program a week for six weeks.

We have had a space needs assessment study done and we plan to expand within the next five years.

Fort Myers Beach Public Library

1970-1998

Note: For a history of the library from 1954 to 1969, please contact the University of South Florida, Tampa Campus Library, Special Collections Department.

In 1970 a construction project doubled the size of the library, at a cost of $28,000. Now that the library had more shelving space additional books were purchased and donated books continued to pour in. The librarian, Emily Spencer, had a hard time processing all of the materials.

Jayne Coles, a former school librarian, was hired in 1972 to work part time. She typed catalog cards, helped process the backlog of books, worked at the front desk during evening hours, and became familiar with library procedures in preparation for becoming library director when Miss Spencer retired.

In 1974 a small construction-type trailer was attached to the back of the library, providing additional space for technical processing, This temporary work area was replaced by another permanent addition to the library in 1978. At this time the library was refurbished and the interior rearranged. A fund drive was established for carpeting the library, which not only added to the decor but helped to muffle the sound in the formerly rather noisy interior.

On January 2, 1975, Emily Spencer retired as full-time director and Jayne Coles was hired to take her place. Charge out machines were added for circulation. The library board increased the budget significantly, allowing the library to purchase additional recommended titles to replace many of the older, donated books, and to add a bookkeeper and library clerk to the paid staff to supplement the help of many dedicated volunteers.

As the population of Fort Myers Beach increased and the number of library patrons grew, the library again experienced growing pains. Lack of adequate parking became a real concern, as well as overcrowded library shelves and work areas.

In 1990 the library board, after much deliberation, voted to approach the owners of the property adjoining the library as to the feasibility of purchasing part of their property for additional parking. The property was purchased at its appraised value of $370,000. This kindled the dream of a major building program to meet not only current but future needs.

Rob Fowler of the Fowler Company was hired as project manager to obtain a development order for the parking lot and to investigate the feasibility of constructing a larger library building. The expanded parking lot was completed. The Friends of the Library financed new landscaping and the Kiwanis Club donated a beautiful new flagpole.

In late 1991 the library board budgeted funds for staff to begin placing library holdings in MARC format in preparation for a computerized catalog.

In 1993 The Fowler Company was hired again as project manager and Gora, McGahey, Associates in Architecture, were hired to design the new library.

The library moved into the second story of NationsBank with a small core collection and the remainder of the collection was placed in storage during construction.

Linda Tafel was hired as Reference Librarian, to assist Mrs. Coles and to help convert nonfiction and reference records to machine-readable form for the new library's Intelligent Catalog.

On April 29, 1994, our new, two-story, 14,669 sq. ft. library was dedicated. Hundreds of residents and patrons streamed in to admire the bright, attractive and spacious building.

beautifully decorated for the occasion by the Estero Island Garden Club. Total project cost was $1,288,241.

The Children's Room, Reference, Audiovisual and all other areas now had additional space and staff workrooms were enlarged as well. New areas were added, including YA, Genealogy, a Literacy Room for tutoring, a Public Computer Room, and a Conference Room. Bequests from several long-time library patrons and gifts from service clubs provided furnishings for many of these areas. The Friends of the Library furnished the big, new circulation desk.

In October 1994 the library received the New Image Award from the Greater Fort Myers Beach Area Chamber of Commerce for the construction of the new and beautiful building.

In January 1995 a third librarian, John Lukow, joined the staff. His expertise with computers has been vital as the library offers more services in electronic format.

In September 1995 the Internet was added at the Reference Desk for use by the Librarian. In 1997 the Library Board authorized purchase of a computer to provide public access to the Internet, the first public library in Lee County to do so. A Florinet grant enabled the library to purchase a second computer for Internet access later in the year. A gift from the Friends of the Library will allow the library to upgrade one of the computers in the Children's Room in the spring of 1998. This brings the total number of computers available for public use to eighteen, including the computerized card catalog stations.

The Beach Library continues to flourish due to supportive taxpayers, dedicated library board members, steadfast volunteers, generous local service clubs and a competent and caring staff. The library has adapted over the years to meet various challenges, and must continue to do so. With community support the library will continue to be what some have called, "The Best Library under the Sun."

Fort Walton Beach Library

Carol Hill, Library Director

January 1998

In 1927, the Women's Club, organized in 1921, established a public library in the old Masonic building on the waterfront. Members kept the library open by rotating service hours during the days of the week chosen for its operation. Approximately one thousand books were donated to the library. A few years later the library was reestablished in the clubhouse of the Women's Club. In 1936, when the Fort Walton Beach High School needed additional books for accreditation, the Women's Club donated the library books to give the school the quota needed. This ended the first public library until June 1, 1954, when the Business and Professional Women's Club, assisted by the Women's Club, established the Fort Walton Beach Public Library in the Community Center, the land for which was donated by Library Board President, Mrs. Liza (L.M.) Jackson. Miss Lucile Woodward, a member of one of the first families of this city, served as librarian. Miss Woodward was given accolades for the splendid growth during her two and one-half year directorship of the library.

On Friday, February 15, 1957, the big news was that for the first time Fort Walton Beach and the Playground area would offer full time library service with a full time professional librarian, Miss Dorothy Raymond. The city-supported library was open from 10 until 5:30 o'clock Tuesday through Saturday. Mrs. Liza Jackson, Library Board President, was quoted "The board is happy to announce this full time schedule so the hours will be convenient for both office workers and housewives." The new professional director, Miss Raymond, was quoted, "I was horrified when I learned the library I was to help build was founded on donations. I had never seen any donations which were any good. But you'd be surprised what the people here gave-they are excellent additions to the library." *The Playground Daily News* of February 28, 1957, also said "...so pleased was Miss Raymond with what she found to work with at the Fort Walton Beach Library, that she complimented Mrs. Jackson and her board on their 'extremely good selection of books.'"

The present City of Fort Walton Beach Library, located at 105 Miracle Strip Parkway SW, Fort Walton Beach 32548-6614, opened on April 23, 1963, staffed by Mrs. Lee Drake, Library Director, and seven assistants. The library size increased to its current 5700 square feet when an addition was opened in May, 1970. A news article from 1969 said, "In 1963, the entire collection of its reference department consisted of two sets of encyclopedias and a copy of the *World Almanac*. The children's department was no better off. It, too, had but two sets of junior encyclopedias. About the best that could be said about the adult and children's reference resources was that all four sets of encyclopedias were very good ones and that the World Almanac was a fairly good account of the past year's events throughout the world."

Automation of the city-supported library's collection was completed in July, 1995. Today, in 1998, patrons can access the collection from 3 patron Online Patron Access Terminals (OPACs). The collection consists of about 45,000 items, including books, CDs, videos, books on tape, and machine-readable materials. Hundreds of current reference materials are enhanced by Internet Access, Microfiche and Microfilm machines, InfoTrac CD periodical/newspaper articles, and 180+ newspapers and periodicals. A book leasing service adds to the availability of the newest best-selling titles.

Gulf Beaches Public Library

(Madeira Beach, Pinellas County)

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

Gulf Beaches Public Library is supported by five communities which have combined resources in order to fund a library they would not be able to maintain individually. The five supporting communities, all located on two barrier islands in the Gulf of Mexico west of St. Petersburg, are Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, North Redington Beach, and Redington Shores.

The "birth" of a library to serve the residents of the mid-beach communities goes back to the September 1949 meeting of the Gulf Beach Woman's Club. Under the guidance of the first club president, Mrs. Polly Van Dyke, a committee of six women began to collect books, which finally found a permanent home in 1952, when a one-room building was erected on 140th Avenue on Madeira Beach. Mrs. Edyth Mariani, one of the six original book collectors, assumed the position of head librarian, a post she held until her retirement on December 31, 1979. She was succeeded by Karilyn Jaap, who in turn retired on December 31, 1993. The current director is Maryke Nol.

The library grew, thanks to enthusiastic community support, over the next fifteen years, during which time its operation was turned over to the City of Madeira Beach and, subsequently, to a consortium composed of the communities of Treasure Island, Madeira Beach, Redington Beach, and North Redington Beach.

In 1968, a federal matching grant for a new library was obtained after an intense fund raising campaign. In 1969, this new building was dedicated at the library's present location, 200 Municipal Drive, with the four supporting communities supplemented by the addition of the Town of Redington Shores. These five communities continue today to support the Gulf Beaches Library.

In 1988 the library expanded to house its ever-growing collection. A 3,600 square feet space was added to the existing building to create more shelving and reading space, bringing the total square footage of the library to 10,000.

In 1989 the Gulf Beaches Library became one of the members of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative (PPLC). The increased cooperation and sharing of resources among the public libraries of Pinellas County have been very beneficial to the patrons of the Gulf Beaches Library. Funds made available through PPLC and State Aid to Libraries have helped the library computerize its operations, offer materials beyond books, such as audio and video cassettes, and offer access to electronic information via the Internet and through a CD-ROM local area network.

As of January 1, 1998, the staff of the Gulf Beaches Library consists of three professionals and eight full-time and part-time paraprofessionals, all of whom are dedicated to serving the public in a friendly, competent and efficient manner.

Helen B. Hoffman Plantation Library

(Plantation, Broward County)

By Dee Anne Merritt, Library Director

March 1998

The Plantation Library, with Mrs. Abram Hoffman as Chairman, Was founded in 1961. This volunteer effort, in conjunction with the Plantation Woman's Club, assisted students with reference questions. We occupied the sixth grade room in Peters Elementary School four nights a week. Standard reference volumes were bought through the Stranahan High School librarian with funds from the Woman's Club and Civitans.

In 1963, the library was taken over as a city department, and a space 30' by 30' was given to it in the Community Center. In one year the space was increased to 30' by 70'.

The Board of seven members, with Ms. Dee Anne Merritt as Chairman is selected by the Mayor with the advice of the Library Director and ratified by the City Council. The Board roster is reviewed for re-appointment or replacement yearly on June 1.

In 1968, on October 6, our Library of 9,700 square feet was dedicated. Since that time we have added 1,280 square feet in the Non-Fiction Room. A new Children's Wing of 2,000 square feet was dedicated April 13. 1980 and is proving very functional as well as beautiful. The Library now has a total of 13,000 square feet.

On January 14, 1981, the Council by resolution renamed the Library "THE HELEN B. HOFFMAN PLANTATION LIBRARY." The Library houses over 72,000 books. We have a large collection of video and audio cassettes. Beginning in June 1996 we began developing our CD collection. There are many famous art reproductions which can be circulated.

The library has several computers available for patron use. In addition to preset programs, there are two computers set for word processing.

We now have 14 positions on our staff, 10 of whom are full time and 4 who work less that 20 hours weekly.

Hernando County Public Library System

Many people have given generously of their time, expertise, money and even building materials, such as brick and sand, to make the county's library system the valued community asset that it is today. In 1910 the Brooksville Woman's Club formed and operated the first free lending library in Hernando County. By 1917 the collection totaled 1,083 volumes valued at $833. The Extension Service helped to give access to the library by delivering books to distant parts of the county where the extension agents were conducting various demonstration projects.

Through the years the library's collection has been housed at a number of locations. Under the leadership of Margaret Dreier Robins in 1926, the library, a club center and gift shop were opened in one of the buildings that is now the Rogers' Christmas House Village. In the Great Depression decade of the 1930s a library was built on the corner of Bell and Mt. Fair Avenues under the auspices of the Work Projects Administration (WPA). The first bookmobile service in the state of Florida was established from there and books were transported weekly to rural communities and schools.

The county purchased property in Brooksville in 1949 for construction of a permanent facility to be located within a public park setting. The building was dedicated in 1950 as the Frederick Eugene Lykes, Jr. Memorial Library in memory of the late son of Frederick and Velma Lykes and in recognition of the effort and contributions from the Lykes family to the library. The distinctive and graceful Brooksville structure has since been expanded and renovated several times.

Branch libraries were gradually established in the Little Red Schoolhouse in Spring Hill, in Ridge Manor, in the Istachatta community building near the Withlacoochee River and at the produce cannery in the northwest part of the county. By 1977 the library had registered 11,690 card holders and had an inventory of over 47,000 books. The staff included 4 full-time and 1 part-time employees plus many volunteers.

County population growth was soaring by the 1980s and the system and the existing branches had to be expanded to handle the increase in usage; total system-wide circulation of materials was approaching 140,000 items per year. The Hernando County Public Library System joined the state library system and hired a director with the required professional library degree who began to write grants to obtain some of the funding needed. Construction of the West Hernando Branch, near Weeki Wachee Springs, was accomplished through the generosity of Alfred A. McKethan of the Hernando State Bank (later to be the Sun Bank) who matched a federal grant of $175,000; additional money and an ample 5-acre site were donated by the Royal Palm Beach Colony development group. The branch was dedicated in 1985. A major addition to that building was completed in July, 1993 using state and local funds and the branch was renamed the West Hernando - Staffordene T. Foggia Branch to honor her leadership in establishing the Hernando County Friends of the Library.

The most recent addition to the system has been the store-front East Hernando Branch at Sunrise Plaza on Highway 50 near Interstate 75. This branch opened to the public in March, 1994 with 14,000 items incorporating many donations from the former Ridge Manor Library.

Today, the hours of operation have been extended significantly and many new services have been added, including adult and children's programs, periodical subscriptions, best sellers, reference service, video and audio cassette tapes, inter-library loan service, large-print books, microfilm reader/printers, recorded children's stories available through Dial-A-Story, IRS tax forms, personal computers and a typewriter for public use and special equipment to aid those readers with vision impairment. A technical services department has been established to purchase materials, to create computer records for each item, to produce labels and plastic jackets for the items and to disperse the new materials throughout the county-wide system. Total circulation now exceeds 650,000 items per year. John J. Callahan, III, the library's director from 1991 to 1995, and staff and volunteers succeeded in converting the massive card catalog system to a subject-author-title-keyword computerized database with access for patrons and staff. Remote access is available for those with personal computers and modems at home or in their offices.

The well-equipped, free public library is one of the hallmarks of a civilized society. The Hernando County Public Library System will continue to adapt to the community's changing needs and to provide excellence in service through newly evolving technology and modes of communication.

Lake Alfred Public Library

(Member, Polk County Library Cooperative)

By Cathy Parson

February 28, 1998

The library was started by the Junior Woman's Club in April 1962 and was housed in the Dees Building on West Haines Boulevard. The second location was in the caretaker's house at Lion's Park in 1970 through 1973. In October 1973 the Library was taken over by the City and moved into the Public Safety Building. Betty Shinn was appointed the first librarian. (At that time the Library had a collection of approximately 7500 books. I remember Mrs. Shinn telling me that on moving day, the entire Library was thrown into the back of a City truck!. It took a l-o-n-g time to straighten it out again!) I was hired as her assistant and gradually became responsible for all of the children's activities. The Library was dedicated in February 1974.

One of the fist projects that I took on when I was hired in May 1974 was the card catalog. It seemed that every time I would go to the catalog to look up a book, I'd find the card in the catalog, but could find no trace of the book. Apparently books were discarded but the catalog cards for them remained.

So the first thing I did was inventory the Library using the shelf list cards to make sure that I had a shelf list card for every book in the Library. Then, once that was completed I took each shelf list card and checked for author, title and subject cards in the card catalog. When I found the cards, I'd initial the back of the cards. Once I'd completed going through the entire shelf list cards, then I checked the back of all the catalog cards. If a card did not have my initials, then I knew that particular book had been discarded, and all those cards were pulled. The project took me a year to complete and I can not even begin to tell you how many cards I pulled from the card catalog!

A funny story that I remember…Mrs. Shinn and I were straightening the Library, resorting the books after their hurried arrival to their new home. We came across a book called *The Slim Gourmet* that was classified and shelved in fiction. After looking at the book we discovered that is was a cook book…but we agreed that whoever classified it as fiction was probably correct!

In 1984 Mrs. Shinn left the library to operate her husband's business after his sudden death. She was unable to return and I was appointed city librarians and held that position until 1992. Sally Mueller, the present librarian, was appointed in 1992. In 1994 Nancy Timmer joined the staff on a part-time basis. Currently Nancy and Sally are co-directors and both work on a part-time basis. In 1997 Bumpy Hoofnagle took over children's activities on a part-time basis..

The Penguin Book Drop that we had was donated by the Junior Woman's Club in 1975. The Junior and Senior Woman's Club were always kind to the Library. The Junior Woman's Club helped to finance our Children's Program for years, and the Senior Women contributed throughout the year. The Lion's Club was also a great benefactor of the Library. It was because of their generosity that we were able to maintain such a good collection of large print books and children's books.

The library shares a building with the fire department and the police department at 195 East Pomelo Street in Lake Alfred . Hours are 9-6 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; Thursday 12-6; and Saturday 9-12.

Lake County Library System

By Dr. Diane D. Kamp, Program Coordinator

Lake County Library System

March 1998

LAKE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM HISTORY

In 1975, the Lake County Library Planning Advisory Board was created to make a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners for a county wide library system.

Mr. Cecil Beach, consultant, was retained to perform a feasibility study and make recommendations based on the information.

Beach advised the Advisory Board to adopt the Interlocal Agreement format for the County's library organization. The Advisory Board concurred with his recommendation and reported that to the Board of County Commissioner's.

On September 29, 1982, the Lake County Board of County Commissioners authorized the signature of the county ordinance that established the County-wide library system. Charter members of the Lake County Library System were Cooper Memorial Library in Clermont, Eustis Memorial Library and Umatilla Public Library. Ms. Mary McMahon was named as the Interim Library Coordinator.

By 1990, the Lake County Library System had grown to six member libraries. However, during that year four of the system's libraries, Mount Dora Public Library, Eustis Memorial Library, Umatilla Public Library and Fruitland Park Library withdrew from the system.

In 1992 Umatilla Public Library and Mount Dora Public Library rejoined the Lake County Library System.

The newly formed Lady Lake Public Library joined the system in 1993.

Fruitland Park Library rejoined the Lake County Library System in 1997, bringing the current number of member libraries to six.

Ms. Wendy R. Breeden serves the Lake County Library System as Library Services Manager. She has a full time county staff of 10 people.

HISTORIES OF MEMBER LIBRARIES

COOPER MEMORIAL LIBRARY (CLERMONT)

Cooper Memorial Library is a good example of grassroots determination resulting in a happy partnership between a City and an Association. The library was born in 1914 when Alice Cooper gave several lots to the city for the building of a library at 630 DeSoto Street in Clermont.

The money was raised, and the one room library was built, and named after Alice. A small collection of circulating books that had been kept in various homes and churches became the first items in the new library. The Clermont Woman's Club supplied the volunteers that became the first librarians and the monetary support.

In the 1950's, an appeal was made to the City of Clermont to take over the financial support of the library and maintenance of the building. Cooper Memorial Library Association, Incorporated was formed and a contractual agreement was created stating that the City would support a public library, and the Association would provide the administration of the library.

After additions to the building in 1958 and 1974, the city purchased a former bank building in 1980 and the library was moved. The books were passed hand-by-hand via a "people chain" across empty lots to the new location. A new children's room was added in 1984.

In 1995 two legacies financed the addition of 4000 square feet for a new children's department and Florida room. No tax monies were used.

Cooper Memorial Library became a charter member of the Lake County Library System in 1982, and is the only continuous member of that system. The fifteen member Board of Cooper Memorial Library Association, Incorporated, continues to administer this public library with support from the City of Clermont, Lake County, and generous donations and legacies from area citizens.

FRUITLAND PARK LIBRARY

Originally housed in a small house, the Fruitland Park Library has been in continuous operation since 1917.

In 1936, the library acquired the status of "Community Library". It was then supported jointly by the women of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Community United Methodist Church and St. Paul's Catholic Church.

The library was incorporated in 1966.

Ms. Beverly Matier was the first salaried librarian, serving from 1970.

Today the librarian is Ms. Cathy Mahoney.

LADY LAKE PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1987 the Kiwanis Club of Lady Lake took on a major project to start a library in Lady Lake, and at the same time preserve the historical center of town. The old train depot was still intact but had been sold and moved. The Kiwanis Club purchased the depot and moved it to its present site, only 200 feet from its original location. After moving the depot, volunteers and professionals put much work into restoring the building. The real task of converting the depot to a library then began.

A local fund drive raised over $30,000 and the Kiwanis began various projects to raise additional money to fund the renovation and delivery of three rail cars to be used as a reading room, meeting room, and work area for library staff. To fund all of this, the Kiwanis Club of Lady Lake went into debt to keep the project alive during 1988 - 1992, and in March of 1992 the mortgages were paid off.

The Club dedicated the building to the city so that additional funds could be budgeted to help make the long-awaited project a reality. Once dedicated to the City, a Library Board was appointed to assist with the search for a librarian, to select furniture for the Library, and to write rules and make suggestions for operation and direction. The city budgeted additional funds for completion of construction in 1991 and to furnish and fund a librarian in 1992. With all of this cooperation, the Lady Lake Public Library opened with a dedication ceremony on April 4, 1992.

TAVARES PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Tavares Public Library was originally started by the Tavares Women's Club. The Tavares Recreation Association re-activated the library in 195 1.

In 1973 a new facility was built at its present site. A Children's Library was opened in 1984 in a small, renovated building in the comer of the property. However, the children's services were moved back into the original building in 1992.

A large addition and renovation of the original building is expected to be completed by the Fall of 1998.

The first librarian was a volunteer, Ms. Kay Weidman.

Currently, the library director is Ms. JoAnne McIntosh.

UMATILLA PUBLIC LIBRARY

In 1917 the women of Umatilla came together to create a library for the people of Umatilla. An upstairs room in the Armitage Building and books were donated.

During the WPA Days, a log cabin was built and the library moved into it until the building burned in 1959. The library was housed in a variety of buildings over the next 20 years.

In 1980 the Seaboard Coast Line Railroad Company donated a depot for the library. Mrs. E.L. Atkinson donated land for the building. By 1983 the project was complete.

In 1986 a caboose was received and dedicated in 1988.

Ms. Emily Quinley was the first librarian. As library director since 1972, Ms. Mary Ellen Babb serves as its current director.

W. T. BLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY (MOUNT DORA)

In 1905 a collection of nonfiction books were donated to the town for the purpose of starting a library. The books were housed in Town Hall. Ladies from the Women's Club volunteered to staff the library.

In 1917 the library was moved to the basement of Education Hall, a private school.

Since then the library has moved a few times. It now is housed in a new building which was completed in 1995.

A committee served as its first "librarian". Those on the committee were Ms. Easter Armstrong, Ms. Ora G. Hoagland, Ms. Margaret Lewis and Mr. Will Gardner. Currently, Ms. Stephanie Haimes serves as library director.

Lakeland Public Library

(Member, Polk County Library Cooperative)

1912 The Woman's Club of Lakeland organized on March 14. The club maintained the only local library accessible to the citizens of this community.

1923 The Woman's Club urged the City to purchase land from Herbert Munn as a site for the city library. The recommended site, on Lake Morton between Massachusetts Avenue and Iowa Avenue, had been a campground for Spanish-American War soldiers and later a park.

On August 23 the city purchased the land with a bond issue of $25,000.

1924 By a Vote of 461-122 Lakeland citizens approved a bond issue of $75,000 to build and equip the city library. The architect was Franklin Adams, Jr. The building was categorized as Mediterranean Revival with stucco walls and terra cotta tile roof. The interior had a steel circular staircase from the ground floor to the top floor. The lobby was decorated with a twelve-inch frieze.

1927 The library opened its doors to the public on January 6. Construction costs reached $55,000 and there was an expenditure of $14,914 for equipment. Eunice Coston was appointed Librarian. About 5,000 volumes stocked the shelves.

Through the influence of Lakeland Congressman Herbert Drane, the library became a partial depository for government documents, the first depository in a public library in Florida and the second depository in the state (the first was the University of Florida).

In October Otye Brown replaced Miss Coston, who had resigned to take a position at a library in Atlanta. At that time the Lakeland Public Library had 5,800 volumes. The circulation figure for the first year was 53,055 (the city's population was 28,000).

1928 The Florida Library Association held its annual conference April 4-5 in Lakeland with the public library and Florida Southern College as co-hosts.

1928 Almost 6,100 books were circulated during March and a total of 4,533 residents had library cards.

Eva Chisholm, a teacher with the Child's Garden of Learning, a private school, hosted story hour on Saturdays.

1929 In April Otye Brown (Bly) retired to join her husband at Florida Southern and devote more time to her family. George Burnham served as acting librarian for six weeks. On June 7, Serena C. Bailey was selected as the new director.

1937 During the summer city employees planted a cotton patch on the grounds of the Library. Within a short time, the cotton fell victim to boll weevil.

On October 4, a branch library opened at 1042 North Virginia Avenue in a bungalow renovated by the WPA. Elsie Dunbar was named librarian. She had received her library training at Hampton Institute and Atlanta University. Later she became the first person to receive a master's degree from Florida A&M College in Tallahassee.

1938 Library activities included a weekly story hour for children, a nature club, and a fifteen-minute broadcast once a week over WLAK radio. In this year the library answered 5,339 reference questions, and 28,000 people used the library.

1940 On September 20, Mrs. Park Trammell presented to the library the papers, letters, photographs, speeches and scrapbooks of her late husband, who died in 1936. Park Trammell had been Mayor of Lakeland, President of the Florida Senate, Attorney General of Florida, Governor of Florida, and U.S. Senator.

1952 Serena Bailey became Mrs. Edwin Perry Ross in December.

Dr. William C. Webster's estate bequeathed $15,000 in federal securities to be used for the purchase of non-fiction books. Dr. Webster was a teacher of history and music, and received his doctorate from Columbia University. He had lived in Lakeland from 1928 until his death at the age of 85 on June 1, 1951. The interest on the gift amounted to $375 a year and was used to buy special books for the Webster Book Collection.

The library budget for 1951-1952 was $15,720 with a payroll of $1,200 for one head librarian and two assistants. By 1952 the circulation figures had climbed to 57,200.

1953 On September 22 the Junior Welfare League donated $5,000 to buy a sidewalk book return, Broadman "Auto-Page," and a Gerstenlagger Bookmobile. The new bookmobile began service February 15, 1954. By November 1957 it was making fourteen school stops and two community stops -- Munn Park and South Florida Avenue Publix -- and had circulated 29,793 items during the previous fiscal year.

The interior of the Northwest Branch Library was remodeled, with asphalt tile flooring, new book shelves, and new light fixtures.

The hours for the main library were extended from 9:30 am to 9 pm on Monday and Thursday, and from 9:30 to 6pm the other days of the week. The library remained closed on Sunday. The staff consisted of 11 people.

1955 On February 22 the City Commission took action to honor the late Park Trammell by naming the public library after him. Trammell served successively as mayor of Lakeland, a member of the Florida House of Representatives, president of the Florida Senate, Attorney General of Florida, Governor and United States Senator.

In August the library closed for repainting, redecorating and repairs. The general renovation also included varnishing the furniture and installing new Venetian blinds. The library reopened the next month. At that time the staff consisted of 10 people. Employees included City Librarian Serena Bailey Ross; Assistant City Librarian June O. Haschka; full-time assistants Elizabeth Durfee and Barbara Ridlebaugh; part-time assistants Gladys W. Register and Leo W. Haymans; student assistants Jimmy Malone and Roy Williamson; Elizabeth York, bookmobile librarian; and Lillie Mae Jordan, acting librarian for the African-American branch located on Virginia Avenue. The library contained 35,000 books on its shelves.

1957 In the winter, Lois Lenski, author of the Newberry-Award-winning *Strawberry Girl*, a book about the Lakeland community's strawberry farms, visited the library.

A financial report printed November 3 in *The Lakeland Ledger* stated that the library cost each person in the city about 74 cents per year. The library had circulated a total of 115,639 books, pamphlets, and periodicals. The budget for fiscal year 1956-57 was $31,560. More than 50,000 people in the Lakeland area were served. Approximately 20 percent of the citizens were library borrowers.

1958 On June 9 a record 607 books circulated.

1959 In April the Lakeland Planning Department proposed an addition to the library building, with a separate children's reading room and more shelf space to be added in 1962-63.

Serena Bailey Ross died July 15, having served as City Librarian nearly 30 years. From July 1959 until June 1960 the city had no library director.

1960 Walter Murphy was appointed director in June. He came from the Kansas City, Missouri Public Library system, where he had been Administrative Assistant to the Chief Librarian.

In October plans were approved to add two new staff members, a Children's Librarian and a Chief of Technical Processes. The library also planned to add 4,000 books a year, an average of 360 books a month, in order to reach standards established by national library committees. A circulating phonograph record collection was also begun that year.

1961 The new children's unit opened in the basement of the library. There were 5,300 volumes of juvenile literature and seating space for 17 people.

A Smokey Bear Summer Vacation Reading Program was begun on June 19 by the acting

Children's Librarian, Mrs. Marilyn Openbrow. The program included nature book reading, movies, and a story hour. More than 100 young readers earned certificates in the reading club that summer.

The "Great Books Discussion Group" was formed on October 24 with Mrs. Freda Levy and Mrs. April Bevis as co-leaders.

Mrs. Gladys W. Register, Assistant Librarian, died August 24.

1962 Mayor Morris Pritchard announced April 29 that he had asked City Manager Robert Youkey to include funds for a new library in the 1962-63 fiscal budget.

The first meeting of the "Friends of the Library" was held on May 15 at First Federal Savings and Loan, in Grove Park. As principal speaker, Walter Murphy discussed ideas for the new library and asked the Friends to assist in planning the new facility.

Patron use of the library increased by approximately nineteen percent from September 1961 to August 1962. 180,332 books and materials circulated, and the library holdings totaled 38,827 volumes, 12,241 of which had been added in the previous two years. The library was opened two more nights per week.

1963 Elsie Dunbar, former librarian at the Northwest Branch, retired as principal of Rochelle Junior High School June 3.

James H. Renz, formerly of William and Mary College, in Williamsburg, joined the staff as Chief of Technical Processes in January.

The City Commission decided in July to replace the Park Trammell Building with a modern, new building at a cost of $350,000, including fixtures and furniture. The library contained over 40,000 volumes and over 500 phonograph records. Book circulation was expected to reach 200,000 by year's end and there were over 15,000 registered borrowers. The staff consisted of nineteen full- time workers.

In August the library became the first in the state to install a book charger. The machine was purchased from the Fort Lauderdale firm of Duble-Chek of Florida, Inc.

In September sketches were shown of the new $500,000 public library to be built on the site of the old Park Trammell Building. The basement fronting Lake Morton was to be the children's department, and an auditorium seating 130 was to be built on the west side. The ground-level entrance, facing Lime Street, was to serve as the Adult department, and the Administration offices and conference and local history rooms were to be located on the third floor.

The first Park Trammell Library Music Appreciation Program was held at the Tuesday Music Club. The music program was organized by Mrs. Freda Levy.

The Park Trammell Library became the first in the state to install a Vico-Matic, a coin-operated photocopy machine.

On December 17 the City Commission voted six-to-one to approve the plans for the new library at the Park Trammell Library site. Dr. West gave the dissenting vote, arguing instead for a different Lake Morton site.

1964 When the new City Commission met on January 20, another vote was taken concerning the location of the new library, and the Lake Morton School site was chosen. Two reasons for the change were advanced. First was the desire to avoid razing the beautiful Park Trammell Building. The second concerned the problem of parking and traffic congestion. The formal vote was taken on March 2, and Lois Searl was the only commissioner to vote against the Lake Morton School site. She favored the Mayhall Auditorium site.

During National Library Week, April 13-18, the library displayed its newly acquired book trailer at Munn Park. This trailer, and one purchased the next month, were cheaper and more economical than the bookmobile. The trailers were air-conditioned and had a capacity of 3,500 books.

In August Ruth Kierstead of La Grande, Oregon, was appointed children's services librarian.

On December 8, J. Everett Allen of Lakeland, as executor of an estate, announced that Mrs. Floy M. Baldwin had given $10,000 as a permanent trust for the library to use to purchase science and "wholesome" fiction books.

1965 On February 3 the library offered to secure Canadian Travel films to show to groups during the winter. This activity became an annual offer.

On April 5 the City Commission approved plans for the new library and voted to select a contractor in May. The initial bids were considered too high. On June 25, P.J. Callaghan Construction, of St. Petersburg, submitted a low bid of $300,085. The Commission voted July 7 to award a contract of $317,716 to the firm, ending three years of discussion and planning.

By August 23 construction crews began pouring the foundation of the new building. The Groundbreaking ceremony was held September 21 with Walter Murphy presiding and Lakeland Mayor Lois Searl representing the citizens of Lakeland.

Two new appointments were announced in November. Mrs. Kierstead, with Children's Services, transferred to Adult services, and Mary Wolter, a graduate of Jacksonville University, became Children's Librarian.

A "Library Regiscope Book-Charger Printer," considered the most efficient method of book charging, was installed.

1966 City employees began the transfer of books from the Park Trammell Building to the new library on April 20. On May 2, the library opened its doors to the public. The dedication ceremony took place May 29, with an address from William Summers, State Librarian of Florida.

In June, Walter Murphy announced his resignation as City Librarian. He accepted the position of Director of the Flint, Georgia, Regional Library System. Robert Moore,Technical Services Librarian, was appointed Acting Librarian. Moore, from Baytown, Texas, had joined the staff in 1961.

Mrs. Deane Costner became Children's Services Librarian in August. Although she came from the Atlanta Public Library, Polk County was originally her home. She initiated three new programs: "Teen Talks," story hour for elementary school children, and a pre-school children's program.

A painting collection circulated in September. Patrons could check out paintings for a month in what became a popular service.

Robert Moore died on September 9.

Mrs. T.N. Weiskirch became assistant in the Adult Department. She received her library certification at Florida State University.

1967 Cecil Cleveland, Director of the James Pendergust Library in Jamestown, New York, was appointed City Librarian.

Jean Finlaw became Librarian on the Blue Book Mobile in February.

The library began presenting exhibits by prominent local painters: Jose Forns, Fonchen Lord, Gregory Jones, C.H. Thomas, and Stephen Lloyd Smith.

The new building attracted large numbers of users. New services and programs were offered. Circulation, reference requests, and general usage steadily increased each year.

1968 Mrs. Ralph Birchfield became Librarian on the Red Trailer in March. Shirley Husby was appointed Children's Librarian. A native of Michigan, she received her graduate library degree at the University of Wisconsin.

In the spring the Friends of the Library scheduled a series of cultural programs entitled "Sundays in the Library." It featured local speakers. Robert Zimmerman spoke on the American novel. Downing Barnitz, an art instructor at Florida Southern, spoke on "Classic versus Romantic Art" and displayed his paintings. The Youth Group and Lakeland Symphony Orchestra also performed.

On October 22 the City Commission voted to open the library on Sunday afternoons.

In July the library borrowed from the Library of Congress a new record player for the blind. It had a speed setting in Braille and records for the blind as well as for children too young to read.

Adult Services offered a collection of large print books for the visually handicapped. An 8mm, black-and-white, silent film collection also circulated.

1970 By February more than 73,000 books were available to the public, as well as 200 magazines and 11 newspapers. For the year 1969-1970, library circulation totaled 282,318 items. Of these more than 50,000 were through the bookmobile, and over 12,500 were in the Northwest Branch.

On June 4, Dr. R.H. Akerman dedicated the "Freedom Shrine," a collection of 28 documents, including copies of the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. They were presented by the Exchange Club and were placed on permanent display.

1971 On May 17 a rock from the moon was displayed at the library through the efforts of Henri Landwith, owner of Lakeland Holiday Inn. It was about three billion years old and weighed 42 grams. Over 3,000 patrons viewed the rock.

1975 A 28-foot, van-type bookmobile replaced one of the two stationary book trailers on March 23. It made eleven stops per week, as opposed to five by the trailer.

To celebrate the American Bicentennial, Children's Services held a program every third Saturday. People dressed in colonial attire and told stories about the events of 1775-1776.

1980 Due to theft of library books, the city was forced to install an electronic book detection system at the library doors. Nearly one-quarter of the yearly budget (or $10,000 a year) was being lost on books. The guard was installed in April.

1982 City Librarian Cecil Cleveland died September 30, following a long illness. City Manager Gene Strickland said of his work: "Mr. Cleveland was open and forthright with the City Commission, and always turned in a good, tight budget. The number of books in the library nearly doubled in almost fifteen years from 60,000 to 110,000 and the number checked out in the last year rose to 300,000 items."

1983 On January 19 David L. Reich, former Commissioner of Chicago's Public Library System and a native of Orlando, became the new City Librarian. At that time the library had 20 full-time employees and the budget was $403,865.

A new Friends of the Library organization was formed by Mr. Reich. The organization began to plan the annual book sale and contributed equipment and volunteer services to the library.

In May city officials hired a local architectural firm to study expansion plans for the library. The large number of users (46 percent increase in ten years) had created the need for more space. National guidelines suggested an increase of at least 14,000 square feet.

The library and the Polk Museum decided to launch a joint expansion plan, combining parking lots and relocating the museum. In August the authorities discussed the problems and suggested new plans.

1984 On January 20 the Friends held a reception honoring Corinne "Toddy" Sherwood on the occasion of her retirement after 20 years of service to the library.

The Friends had their first spring book sale on May 12. More than 5,000 books were donated for the activity. It took place on the lawn along Morton Drive.

After 20 years of lending artwork to patrons, the library decided to end the practice and sell its 250 prints. On June 1 the prints were checked out for the last time. A successful auction of the prints was held in front of the library; Lakeland Police Captain Larry Alexander acted as auctioneer.

Morrick Construction Company of Tampa was awarded the contract for expanding the library. Groundbreaking was held October 10. Among those in attendance were Mayor Peggy Brown; Frances McCranie, President of the Friends; Jo Ann Ellington, Assistant State Librarian; and Dr. John McCrossan, President of the Florida Library Association.

Actual Construction began October 15. The completed structure of 36,674 square feet with new furnishings and equipment cost $2,010,386. A $200,000 public library construction grant, from Title II of the Federal Library Services and Construction Act through the State Library of Florida, assisted the construction program.

In December, 1984, as the first event of the celebration of Lakeland's Centennial in 1985, the library exhibited prints of artist Kent Hagerman. Many scenes of Lakeland were featured. Hagerman was born in 1893 and studied art in the Cleveland School of Art. As a child he visited Lakeland and moved to the city in 1933. He died in 1978.

1986 Library renovation was completed in July 1986.

In September the library was awarded an LSCA Title II grant of $7,268 to join the SOLINET/OCLC interlibrary loan system.

1987 The Special Collections Unit (the Lakeland Room) was opened in January 1987.

1988 In August the library joined the Bartow Public Library and the Auburndale Public Library in a Reciprocal Borrowing program. Patrons with valid resident or non-resident cards from any of the libraries could receive free cards and borrowing privileges from any or all of the other participating libraries. The Haines City Public Library joined the program in December.

1989 Lakeland Public Library and the Bartow Public Library's joint Young Adult Services program was honored by the Florida Library Association as the outstanding youth services program in Florida.

In July the Lake Wales Public Library joined the Reciprocal Borrowing Program Cooperative Agreement.

Lucille Moss, Library Secretary, retired after twenty-two years with the city.

Shirley Husby, Children's Librarian for twenty-two years, died at her home in Lakeland on December 3. Miss Husby, known affectionately to the children who visited the Children's Room in the library as "Miss Shirley," was a native of Escanaba, Michigan.

1990 In January Yvonne Roberts, Librarian at the Northwest Branch, retired. She began her employment in September 1958.

In June the library acquired its new bookmobile. Custom-built by the Ohio Bus Company of Canton, Ohio, it cost $76,963.25, including equipment. Its book capacity is between

3,500 and 3,600 volumes.

In the summer, Dan Sanborn, Ledger photographer in the late 1930's, owner of Sanborn Advertising Agency and later radio announcer for WONN, donated his entire photographic collection to the library. This collection spans thirty years and is one of the most significant local- history photographic collections in the state.

In September the Library hosted a reception for former cadets and instructors of Lakeland's Lodwick School of Aeronautics and Avon Park's Lodwick Aviation Military Academy. The occasion marked the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the Lakeland primary flight-training school.

In November the voters of Polk County defeated a straw ballot to establish a countywide library system.

1991 In September five war bonds, purchased by students of Lakeland High School and Washington Park High School in 1943, were donated to the Lakeland Room by a vote of the Polk County School Board. The bonds matured in 1955 but had been tucked away in a closet at the Polk Opportunity School (formerly Lakeland High School) for more than forty years. They were discovered early in the summer of 1991.

British Royal Air Force pilots, who trained at Lakeland's Lodwick School of Aeronautics in 1941, returned to Lakeland in October to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their memorable experience. As part of their visit, they viewed Lodwick School photographs in the Special Collections Room.

Hal Hubener, Special Collections Librarian, was named Library Employee of the Year by the Florida Public Library Association at its annual meeting in Winter Park, November 8.

In December, Children's Services, in cooperation with The Ledger and the Ledger Kids Critic Club, sponsored a cookie decorating contest. Four adults, including Ledger Publisher Don Whitworth and Children's Services Librarian Diane Fasano frosted ready-made gingerbread men.

The Friends of the Library held a holiday sale in December. The sale featured a variety of holiday gift items, including cookbooks, first editions, and paperbacks.

1992 In January, Art Buchwald, author, columnist and humorist, signed copies of his new book at the Library.

"Willa Cather Speaks," a one-woman dramatization of the Pulitzer Prize-winning writer, was presented at the Library by Betty Jean Steinshouer.

Jeanne Corbett, former president of the Friends of the Library, died April 13.

In May an infrared Assistive Listening System (ALS) was installed in the library's Meeting Room.The ALS is designed to help hearing-impaired people to hear better and understand more in the Meeting Room. Lakeland's ALS is used with the room's sound system. The hearing- impaired wear receivers that pick up the signal contained within the Meeting Room; the receivers convert the signal into sound. The local SHHH (Self Help for the Hard of Hearing) group has donated additional receivers to the library. The library's ALS is the first in a City of Lakeland facility.

In September the library went online with the BiblioFile Intelligent Catalog, a CD-ROM system that replaced the traditional card catalogs in both the main library and the northwest branch. Patrons used PAC's (Patron Access Catalogs) to find books.

The Lakeland City Commission voted in September to allocate $125,000 in the 1992-1993 budget for design of a new 10,000 square-foot facility to replace the Coleman-Bush Reading Room. The estimated cost of construction for the new Northwest Branch Library was $1,300,000, including equipment and an opening day collection.

1993 In March U.S. Representative Charles Canady visited the LPL to familiarize himself with the Library's Federal Documents Depository collection.

Special Collections Librarian Hal Hubener was elected president of the Society of Florida Archivists for the 1993-1994 year. He was the first public librarian elected to the office.

In July architects Ernie Straughn and Jerry Trout presented their site plan, layout, rendering and cost estimates for the new branch library to the City Commission. The site selected for the branch was the corner of Modest Street and Florida Avenue North, at Simpson Park. Morrick Construction was the contractor.

By the summer the LPL had added to its automation capacity. In addition to the circulation system COLLIS, a BiblioFile Intelligent Catalog and PAC's were added.

In November, Marilyn Peterson received the Florida Public Library Association's Volunteer of the Year Award at the FPLA annual conference.

1994 In January the Friends of the Library presented LPL with a Sanyo LCD color video projector.

In the same month a new curbside book return was delivered and installed. It was larger, more attractive, and an improvement over the old one.

In February ground-breaking ceremonies for the new 13,144 square-foot Lakeland Branch Library were held. The facility cost $1,600,000. Worden library furniture and Estey shelving were selected for the interior.

In March the Society of Florida Archivists held its annual meeting in Lakeland. The Friends of the Lakeland Public Library hosted a reception for members.

In November the Northwest Branch Library (the Reading Room in the Coleman-Bush Building) closed permanently, and staff began the move into the new Lakeland Branch Library.

1995 The new Lakeland Branch Library officially opened Saturday, January 14. Following welcome remarks by Mayor "Buddy" Fletcher, Gloria Brooke, President of the Friends of the Library, along with attorney Larry Jackson, the Mayor and City Commissioners, cut the ribbon. Several local businesses and organizations provided refreshments for the crowd, which despite inclement weather, poured into the new facility from 10 in the morning until 2 in the afternoon. Entertainment came in the form of clowns, balloons, story telling, and musical groups.

In January the LPL installed a FAX machine.

In the same month the Depository Library Inspector from the United States Government Printing Office, in Washington, DC, inspected the LPL's Selective Depository Library. The Library passed the inspection in all categories.

In May an information kiosk became operational in the Library. It was operated by volunteers and library staff.

Rivanne Chasteen-Futch assumed the responsibilities of Librarian Supervisor at the Lakeland Branch Library in November.

1996 In March Time-Warner and the Friends of the Library hosted a reception at the Main Library for the opening of It's US: A Celebration of Who We Are in American Today, a photographic essay by Time-Warner.

Hal Hubener, Special Collections Librarian, was awarded the 1996 Award of Excellence by the Society of Florida Archivists. The award was presented at the annual conference, held in Tallahassee, in April.

Twenty-five librarians from around the state participated in the State Library of Florida's Assessing the World Around You: Evaluation Methods That Work workshop at the Main Library, in May.

At its Annual Conference in November in Winter Park, the Florida Public Library Association named Lakeland City Librarian David Reich "President Emeritus."

In September Lisa Broadhead joined the staff as Assistant City Librarian.

In February Mary Anne Murphy, Technical Services Librarian, retired after 32 years with the Library.

City Commissioners voted in August to rename the Northwest Branch Library the Larry R. Jackson Branch Library. Mr. Jackson was a community leader and was instrumental in persuading Commissioners to construct the branch.

In September Lakeland City Commissioners voted to participate in the new Polk County Library Cooperative.

At its Annual Conference in November in Tampa, the Florida Public Library Association awarded a "Library Volunteer of the Year" to Lakeland Public Library Volunteer Ruth Snyder.

James Dowdy, former treasurer for the Friends of the Library and long-time member, died in Winter Haven. He had recently retired from the Polk Community College Library.

Largo Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

By Barbara Ann Murphey

December 1997

The beginnings of the Largo Library can be traced to the Largo Woman's Club. Mrs. Jennie Judkins is given credit for spearheading the drive for a library around 1907. However, sidewalks were the priority of other Club members. Once these were installed in 1912 the Library project became the focus of their attention. In December of 1914, when the Ladies Improvement Society reorganized as the Largo Woman's Club, their first project was the library. The library committee received permission to use a room in the Town Hall, but fund raising efforts delayed the library's opening until April 7, 1916. There were 560 books and a Librarian was hired at $2.00 a week paid by the Town Commission. Opening hours were limited to two afternoons a week.

Over the years, the library collection grew through donations of books and the support of the Largo Woman's Club. In 1958 the hours were increased from 29 to 36 due to increased support from the town and there was a move to build a new library. In 1960 land was purchased and on December 15, 1961 ground was broken for a $36,000 library. The Largo Woman's Club and other civic organizations contributed the money for interior furnishings and landscaping. A 2,340 square foot building was opened May 27, 1962. An addition of 552 square feet was added in May 1968. This building is currently in use by the Largo Community Development Department as part of the Largo City Hall, but with the move of City facilities to a new complex it is expected to be sold.

By 1969 the annual circulation had increased to 126,186 and there was growing demand for additional services. The current Library Director, Barbara Ann Murphey, was hired in 1970. Hiring a professional librarian was the first step in upgrading services. For two years the Director and the Library Board sought a good library site; the City had budgeted purchase money, but a suitable site that was also available for purchase was not found. However, the Board identified a site which was then being used as a driving range as a location that met the requirements of five acres, on a main road in the center of town, and within walking distance of one elementary school, the middle school and the High School. The owner of the site could not be identified, but by fortuitous circumstance the Library Director spoke to him regarding plans to put the library in the building plans for a Police building.

On December 23, 1974 the deed to a site on 351 East Bay Drive was written. On December 17, the land X as accepted by the City Commission and on December 27, 1976, four and two thirds acres of land were recorded in the City's name. The land was donated by Mr. John A. Jenkins, a local banker, with the stipulation that it would only be used as a library site. The site was not only adequate but extremely well located. This donation promoted a united effort to build a 24,900 square foot building for a total cost of $941,590, and to increase the library materials budget to allow an effort to meet standards.

The library building on Bay Drive was completed in 1976. It was eight times the size of the previous building and capable of holding 140,000 book collection. The architect was Schweitzer and the contractor was Attkisson-Bankston. Hoyt Galvin was the consultant. The special features of this building, which was innovative at the time, included compact shelving, a book detection system, a drive-in book return, a children's story hour area, and an automatic fire protection system. It was also unique at the time because of the design emphasis on handicapped access and energy conservation. The building itself is a masonry and steel framed single story building faced with panel brick, featuring exposed ceilings and five clerestories.

Services and professional staff were expanded, but by 1985 there was a need for expansion and renovation. In 1987 an expansion brought the total square footage of the building to 36,190. Educated Design was the architectural firm with Ted Williams as the project manager. Bentley Construction was the contractor. A renovation project the following year doubled the existing children's area, expanded the program area, expanded and changed the circulation area and moved the reference desk.

A snapshot of the Largo Library in 1998 would show a medium-sized public library housed in a contemporary 36,000 square foot building which includes a 100 person meeting room, a Friend's book store, an interior conference room, two tutor/study rooms and a children's program room. It is an extremely busy library with almost 50,000 registered borrowers. Circulated items include extensive large print, audio (audio cassette/CD) and video collections as well as books. The genealogy collection is sizable. Other special collections are a local history, and parent-teacher collection. In 1997 a new special collection focusing on career information was initiated, as was an investment collection named after Priscilla Rugg who provided funding which was invested through the Greater Largo Library Foundation to provide ongoing support funds.

Latt Maxcy Memorial Library

(Frostproof, Polk County)

(Member, Polk County Library Cooperative)

(From There's Only One Frostproof, 1976 and The FrostproofNews, 4/13/78)

By 1920 the need for a Public Library in Frostproof was being discussed. The need was emphasized in 1921 when a book collection housed in the Presbyterian Church, was given to the school as a library for the high school-to-be and the public. In 1921 a few Frostproof residents formed a Library Association with the purpose of securing land, money, and a building for a Library. The campaign began April 19, 1921 and soon the lot of 210 South Scenic was being discussed as a library site. A tent was provided for campaign headquarters and the library Funds progress was registered on a huge thermometer placed in the center of town.

Mr. Leo Elliott gave his services as architect, and work on the building was begun immediately with Mr. W.C. Roberson as contractor and builder. Mr. J.B. Simons made and gave wooden shelving which he described as "temporary." Replacement of this shelving was started in 1962 and completed in 1975.

The building was completed shortly before April 16, 1922 with such exuberance that the Methodist minister closed the Revival service for the evening and with the visiting evangelist and the congregation crossed over to participate in the dedication enthusiasm! The building cost $3,500 with $800 owing when the building was finished. Books were donated by individuals, the Town Council gave funds for new books, and Alice Corbett Cordes (Mrs. Henry B.) was the first volunteer librarian. The building, without awnings or the roof over the steps, is very much the same today as the existing Historical Museum. Two years after establishing the library for the town the Board of Trustees asked the Town of Frostproof for municipal support and management. The Town Council soon requested that the Frostproof Woman's Club, organized in 1924 serve as the Managerial Board of the library. For a brief interval the Town Council assumed control, but again, the Woman's Club was asked to resume the responsibility. The Club's stewardship continued for the next forty-five years or so. In 1966 the sole surviving Trustee made legal transfer to the City of Frostproof of the Library, and lot, with continuation of the original purpose of use. In 1973 upon the request of the Club, the City of Frostproof appointed a Library Board of Directors. Financially the library was and is funded by the City of Frostproof and the Frostproof Woman's Club, The City now provides full budgetary support. In 1975 the Library's second card catalog file became a reality.

UPDATE FEBRUARY 1998

The Latt Maxcy Memorial Library was built by the Maxcy Foundation and donated to the City of Frostproof in April of 1978. Visitors to the library are immediately impressed by the commanding location at 15 North Magnolia Avenue and the open spacious effect created by the modem structure and uncluttered grounds. The building itself encompasses 5,935 square feet with another 3,900 square feet devoted to the promenade dock and an additional 1, 713 square feet for the entrance walk stairs and handicap ramp. Space was provided for parking 34 cars, and an exterior book drop was installed for convenience. The approximate cost of the library, which was designed by R.C. Stevens and constructed by the firm of Stevens and Walton of Orlando was $375,000. Joe Holmes was the superintendent of construction on the project. Simplicity and attention to detail were apparent in every detail of the current library, designed with. a book shelf capacity of 30,000 volumes, ample room for reading, and research for all ages. Highlights of the interior construction and furnishing of the building are: recessed lighting throughout, a clerestory over the entrance lobby, a reception, a check in and out desk counter, enclosed with plate glass panel partitioned reference and easy reading rooms, work room, receiving and assembly room, and the librarian's office. Tiled restrooms have facilities for the handicapped. Other niceties of design and furnishings include: entire public area carpeted for restful atmosphere, acoustic ceilings in all areas, general muting area furnished with 9 circular tables with capacity for 32 persons, lounge area furnished with 2 couches, magazine cabinet newspaper storage cabinet, sliding glass door display cabinet in public area, wall pegboards for display of various art item in public area, easy room provided with low tables, reference provided with reading tables, chairs, and sound retardant cubicles. On the walls are prominent displays of Mr. Latt Maxcy's African hunting trophies. A portrait of Mr. Maxcy hangs aver the circulation area, painted by Bill Potthast of Winter Haven..

The Latt Maxcy Memorial Library currently offers its patrons access to 28,000 volumes of reading and research materials. The library also has one public access Internet terminal that is available to its patrons during regular business hours.

The current staff at the library includes Director Massa Hadden, Technical Assistant Kam Conley-Hollis, and Circulation Clerk Dedee Duckham

The library became a member of the Polk County library Cooperative in October of 1997. By increasing its service area, the library has added several now members to its "family" of patrons, As of February 1998, the library has 4,051 patrons

LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library

The first Leon County free public library opened its doors on March 21, 1956. It had been established by legislative action in May, 1955 and developed by citizens and civic groups. Formed in 1954, by the American Association of University Women, the first Friends of the Library group worked to gain public support to establish the Leon County Public Library. At the time of its opening, Tallahassee was the only state capital in the United States not to offer free public library service. The library"s first librarian, M.G. Lamb, was appointed in September of 1955 and served until 1964. Leon County hired the first library staff person in November of 1955, with the first materials being received from the E.M. Hale, Co. and cataloged in that same year. The library's first home opened in 5,000 square feet of the Columns, one of the oldest remaining antebellum homes in the Leon County area. Library service included a bookmobile donated by the Tallahassee Junior League in March of 1956. The library quickly outgrew its first home. In 1962 it moved to the old Elks Club building at 127 N. Monroe Street, more than doubling its space to 12,000 square feet. From 1964 to 1966, Mary McLendon served as the acting director. In May of 1966, John Pitzer was hired to the director's post and served until 1967. Mary McLendon served once again as acting director from 1967 to 1969. In September of 1969, Verna Nistendirk was named as director and served until 1973.

In October, 1970, Jefferson County became a part of what was to become the Leon, Jefferson, and Wakulla County Public Library System when, in October of 1971, Wakulla County joined. Leon County provided administrative and other services to the two smaller counties, each of which supported the costs of their library services and their share of Leon's administrative costs. The System eventually reverted to a single county service when Wakulla and Jefferson Counties left in 1975 and 1980 respectively. Wakulla and Jefferson established their own libraries and Leon County returned to the name Leon County Public Library. In 1973, Paul Donovan was named as director and served until 1978. A small branch in the Bond Community opened in September, 1975. This branch is located on Pasco Street in the Smith-Williams Service Center. The main library moved again in May, 1978, to 44,000 square feet in the lower level of the Northwood Mall. This space was offered to the library by Publix at a cost of $1 per square foot. Lois Fleming was named director in September of that same year and served until 1986. From June of 1986 to July of 1987, Stanley Bustetter, served as the library's director.

In 1986, another group of dedicated citizen volunteers decided that the time had come for the library to have a real home, a home designed and built specifically to house the library. Project B.U.I.L.D. resulted in the ground breaking on March 4, 1989, for a new $8.5 million facility with 88,000 square feet of space next door to the library's original home, the Columns. This facility was designed by Jim Roberson & Associates. The main library is located in the heart of downtown Tallahassee on West Park Avenue. The new main library building was opened in January, 1991. Watching over the creation of a permanent home for the library was Sandra Wilson, who served as director from 1988 to July of 1991. This fully automated library offered an abundance of new services and quickly became a source of pride in the community.

The library has steadily grown, adding three storefront branches to the system. The Lake Jackson Branch Library opened in August, 1991 at the corner of N. Monroe Street and Fred George Rd., in the Huntington Oaks Shopping Center. Similarly in August of 1994, the Northeast Branch Library opened in the Northampton Shopping Center at the corner of Thomasville Rd. and Kerry Forest Parkway. Most recently (1997) the Parkway Branch, which had originally opened in a stationary bookmobile, was moved from the parking lot to an adjacent storefront in the Cross Creek Square at the corner of Apalachee Parkway and Capital Circle SE. The current director, Helen Moeller, was appointed to lead the library in January of 1992.

On September 17, 1993, the library was honored by a rededication as the LeRoy Collins Leon County Public Library. Governor LeRoy Collins was one of Florida's best known and respected governors and statesmen.

During 1997, the County Commission approved the purchase of two parcels of land for the building of permanent branches. The Northeast Branch is scheduled to open its new home in 1999 next to their current location on Thomasville Rd. The Bond Branch, now renamed as the Dr. B.L. Perry, Jr. Branch (1997), is scheduled to open its new building on South Adams St in 2000.

Lighthouse Point Library History

1965-1987

By Jeanne F. Cavallaro

April 1998

CICERO wrote "to add a library to a house is to give that house a soul."

And now in 1987, the soul that existed since July 1965, has finally found its own home, the Lighthouse Point Library.

In the very beginning, the co-founders William and Elayne Solien said, "lots of philosophy existed, but very little money. We rounded up a group of interested, civic-minded people who wanted a library with rules to accommodate our own community."

The first part-time library was a small room in the Beacon Light Shopping Center. The owner of the Center gave this area rent free for three months as a gesture of good will to the community

Some shelves, copies of duplicate books from Pompano and Deerfield Beach Libraries were donated, as well as armfuls of books from helpful volunteers. Two tables and chairs were the less than ornate furnishings. But the spirit was there and the small community responded with great enthusiasm to the friendly, little library in Beacon Light Shopping Center.

A very glamorous Library Ball was given on March 30, 1965. The Lighthouse Point Bank underwrote the cost and co-sponsored the affair. Five hundred people attended, many donors contributed $50.00, and the dance was a social and financial success. Over $5,000.00 was raised and this was just the beginning.

At this point it was necessary to legally establish the Library with a Charter and a Board of Directors. This was drawn up by December 8,1965 and the first Board of Directors were: William Solien, Bertha Chomont, Betty Dygon, Fay M. Mayes, A. Evelyn Schlapkohl, and Phyllis R. Smith.

The Philosophy read as follows:

> "The purpose of the Lighthouse Point Library is to supply, organize and circulate such books, periodicals, newspapers, etc. which will help members of the community satisfy their need to be well informed, answer important questions, discipline their emotions, cultivate their imagination, refine their tastes and enjoy their leisure by means of recreational reading.
>
> "In order to relate meaningfully to this purpose, the library and its staff strive to aid and encourage the young in their pursuit of knowledge and in finding rewarding experiences through literature. Since adult use of the library is mainly recreational, emphasis is placed on novels, mysteries, science fiction, biographies and the like. In conclusion, the Lighthouse Point Library aids younger members of a community to grow into adulthood and then seeks to meet the needs of that maturity."

By 1966, the library contained 3,000 volumes, books of references and entertainment for the entire family. Under the continuing leadership of William Solien, the Board of Directors continued to work diligently to raise more money. Every year, from 1966 to 1971, the Library Balls continued, and the latter ones were held at the new Lighthouse Point Yacht Club. Each one became more lucrative and more enjoyable.

Now the move for larger quarters was on. In January 1968, a lease was signed for the rental of two empty stores, 1800 sq. ft. at the Venetian Isles Shopping Center, 3770 N. Federal Highway, Lighthouse Point. The Library had 921 members, one fifth of which were non-residents (total number of residents in Lighthouse Point about 8,000).

A part-time library consultant was hired, and the staff of ten hardworking volunteers continued to develop the new location known as "the friendly meeting place." There was a special children's reading area which encouraged young parents to join the library.

The Library Balls and many other donations supported this growth from 1965 to 1971. Over $20,000.00 was contributed, which was a goodly sum from a fairly small group of people.

Circulation grew from the 314 books in 1965 to over 10,000 books in 1968.

The Board of Directors held monthly meetings, set policy and continued to hope and work for a permanent, larger library-complex with room for cultural and theater activities for all. Architectural plans were drawn-up by a well known Ft. Lauderdale firm to present at the 1971 Library Ball. This beautifully depicted building remained a cherished dream for the visionaries who started it all. One day it may be realized.

In the meantime, the facilities at the Venetian Shopping Center served the community well. One thousand families had membership cards for the 5,002 books. Quality of the reading material made up for the quantity. Unlike most libraries then, Lighthouse Point Library allowed its reference books to be signed out. The fee to join was $1.00, non-residents $2.00.

The volunteers gave great sustenance to this community endeavor from the very beginning, never wavering in their devotion and willingness to work. This lifeline continued through all the changes and discomforts of moving even to present day. There are not enough words available to convey the tremendous gratitude to tile beloved and helpful volunteers from a very grateful community.

Inevitably the City Fathers realized the merits and needs of the Library that was so special to the Lighthouse Point Community and surrounding areas. In October, 1972, the Library began to function under the jurisdiction of the City of Lighthouse Point. The Mayor was Frank McDonough. The first Advisory Board was; Mrs. William Solien, Mrs. Dan Witt, Mrs. James Stangle, Mrs. Seward Smith and Mrs. Jacob Chomlont.

The services of a full time Librarian, Mrs. Evelyn Scofield, and two part-time staff members, Mrs. Shirle Wyatt, and Mrs. Fran Festa were engaged later. The City Code was established and the Advisory Board of Directors continued to advise policy, approve budget, book orders and purchases related to the Library, and the hiring of additional personnel. A plan for a Summer Children's Program as well as a weekly reading program was put in the works for younger children and their parents.

During the next five years, there was constant growth in membership, increased circulation and there was always the valuable assistance from more volunteers. Donations continued, books, magazines, and contributions helped purchase 'large print books, encyclopedias, other books for research and some necessary equipment.

In 1977, a petition was signed by hundreds of members, expressing their desire for the development of a plan to build a New Library and Cultural Center for Lighthouse Point. This encouraged the Advisory Board to present such a statement to the Commissioners and Mayor. Sometime later, meetings were held and research into this matter continued. Properties and areas available were presented, however, no feasible plan or resolve emerged at this time.

Later in 1977, Evelyn Scofield retired and Elizabeth Croke was hired as a full-time Librarian and another part-time member was added to the staff. The membership at this time was well over 3,000, the Library was crowded with books and some 2,000 volumes were stored in city buildings due to lack of space in the library.

In 1979 Elizabeth Croke moved away and the present Librarian, Doreen Wildman was hired. The volunteers increased in numbers and remained the backbone and constant help to the staff, the Librarian and community.

During this period of growth in 1979, the "Friends of the Library" was organized. The Board, a nucleus of seven enthusiastic citizens were: Ralph Gates, Pamela Buzbee, R. Blair Smith, Constance Melanson, Hermina Faherty, Gene Paullette, and Cornell Rowe. Under their aegis, 150 families joined and immediately started fund raising activities. Their participation in the development of the Library increased yearly and now in 1987, there are 900 families who are Friends of the Library. During the years of 1984-85, 86, over $207,000 was raised through an organized drive under the leadership of Ted McLaughlin and others too numerous to mention. The money was raised specifically for a new Lighthouse Point Library.

Previous to this however, in 1980, additional space was so desperately needed that another storefront was added to the Venetian Library. Architect Thomas DiGiorgio voluntarily gave freely of his time and talent to plan and arrange the area.

Growth continued, under the able direction of Doreen Wildman, and assistance from the staff and volunteers. Tapes, film, other informative material, exhibits, every avenue of reading and research material was available, however crowded together on non-stretchable shelves. The Summer Programs for children were increasingly inventive and have become more popular every year.

During the years, the Advisory Board met monthly, helping to guide the destiny of the Library through trying times. Never daunted, the Board with Elayne Solien at its helm, continued to work toward the goal - a new Library. During this period of growth, the Mayor was Al Fletcher.

In early 1984, Publix in Venetian Shopping Center, announced it was taking over the entire area including the library space, to build a new supermarket. The inopportune news at the time meant one major thing. What was going to happen to the Library?

Soon to be evicted, a temporary move was necessary, and it was a horrendous feat. The contents of the Library were moved to a huge trailer unit in November 1985. The trailer was placed in the grounds so generously loaned by the Trinity United Methodist Church, 3901 N.E. 22nd Ave., Lighthouse Point.

After many meetings, research and discussions, Mayor Fletcher and Commissioners came up with the present plan of building a City Complex with the Library as the permanent focal point. The money raised by the Friends of the Library made this possible.

Until the complex was even started, more meetings were held, various ideas discussed, different architects were consulted, and locations were considered. Finally the firm of architects chosen was Miller, Meier, Kenyon, Cooper Architects and Engineers, Inc. from Ft. Lauderdale.

Meanwhile back at the trailer unit , the business of the Library continued. A few storms and heavy rains caused havoc, but the staunch staff, the Librarian and volunteers stretched their energies and came through with smiling faces, hoping the rainbow was just around the corner! Circulation continued, the atmosphere was friendly as always and the make-do library worked.

However difficult the change, the on and off air-conditioning, the tired workers continued to serve the community. In May 1987, the final move to the permanent Library began. Though far from finished, with furniture, and fixtures in the way, shelves were arranged and everyone pitched in to make the transition.

The volume count in 1987 is over 20,000 and the membership exceeds 7,000 children and adults. At present there are 11,500 residents. The newly elected Mayor is Leo Bentz.

The permanent home for the Lighthouse Point Library, is indeed an achievement. Few small cities can boast of such facilities that belong to their own community.

As part of the Municipal City Complex, the contemporary Library, 2200 NE 38th Street, Lighthouse Point, Florida 33064, is an interesting architectural encounter. The well-planned offices, a notable conference room , and a pleasant meeting- room large enough to accommodate 50 people has state of the art equipment throughout. Its spacious, well-lighted interior with a comfortable, secluded, reading area has a special charm and friendly ambiance.

And this is just the beginning. Plans for the future include a Monthly Cultural Series starting in January, 1988. This co-operative endeavor of the Advisory Board and Friends of the Library will bring renowned and outstanding guest speakers in the field of Art, Music and Theater. Other events will be forthcoming as the year progresses.

Without the dreams and help of so many people from the very beginning the Lighthouse Point Library would not be a reality. Fortunately it does exist, and a bright new star shines in Lighthouse Point ...

Lynn Haven Public Library

In 1911, a group of fourteen Lynn Haven women formed The Lynn Haven Literary Club. With an admission fee of 15 cents and weekly dues of three cents, the library began to grow beyond its small beginnings of one book and three magazines to a 500 volume collection in only three years.

The Lynn Haven Literary Club originally began meeting in private homes, until, in 1913 the Lynn Haven Bank gave permission for the club to use a back room in the bank building for a permanent location. In 1922 the McMullin family donated a house and land to be used as for the city library. In 1970, a new library building was dedicated and was expanded in 1988 for a total area of 7,692 square feet. The Library now has a collection of almost 20,000 volumes, and can boast Internet and computer technology for advanced reference and research assistance.

Sources: Bell, Harold, Glimpses of the Panhandle, Adams Press 1961

The Maitland Public Library

"A Century of Service"

By Nancy Long

"In the good company of the written word"

Unfortunately, no one is around who can remember that first dedication, but we know there was prayer and "interesting addresses" and "a very delightful Fair gotten up and conducted by the ladies...A great variety of beautiful needle work was displayed, and delicious home made confectionery, ice cream, grape fruit ade, punch, etc. were served. All found ready purchasers, resulting in a profit to the Library Association of $250."

That was an impressive sum in 1908 to help support the operation of a brand new library building and an example of the community's support and involvement from the library's beginning.

In 1896 Mrs. Clara J. Dommerich figured it was high time the town of Maitland, incorporated nine years earlier, had a public library befitting its legal status. She gave 360 books from her personal library, and Miss Emma Dart, teacher at the Maitland elementary school on Maitland Avenue, gladly kept those treasured volumes (three biographies, 16 volumes of history, three books of travel, nine of poetry, nine of religion and the remainder fiction and a few juveniles) in her living room for the townspeople to share.

When the library began to outgrow Miss Dart's living room, W.B. Jackson offered the use of a room in his store on Horatio Avenue, adjacent to the railroad depot. There, in the good company of the written word, Maitland residents gathered on Saturday afternoons to socialize and to check out books. Miss Margaret Simmons, later Mrs. C.B. McNair and mother of longtime resident Isabel Hulburt, took over as librarian.

There were few amusements other than gathering with one's neighbors in those days, and in any case, there were no automobiles to get quickly to distractions in other towns, so the Horatio storefront library became an early social center. Always willing to lend their support, the women of the town raised money for that temporary facility through bake sales and other affairs.

The town grew as an agricultural hub for the production of Florida's orange gold, and by 1902 it could boast of a hotel, the Park House, fine enough to attract notable Northern tourists, including Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, sister of the President. Each year more books were added to Mrs. Dommerich's initial contribution, mostly by Northerners who maintained winter homes in Maitland. It wasn't long before the community began to feel its expanding library deserved a permanent home.

"This gem of architecture'

On February 6, 1907, 31 residents met with a single goal in mind. They organized the Maitland Library Association, with E.P. Boynton as the president and Isaac Vanderpool head of the building committee "for the purpose of erecting a library building."

Considering the length of time it takes today to build community support for a public building, apply for grants and conduct fund-raising campaigns--to say nothing of construction delays and cost overruns--what those 31 residents accomplished in less than a year is nothing short of miraculous. Even more so when you consider that the architectural style and the construction of the Maitland Library are as classic and as sturdy today as they were 88 years ago.

The site the new Maitland Library Association chose for a library was a municipal park at Maitland and Ventris Avenues, owned by the town and supervised by the Ladies Park Association. Apparently the Ladies Park Association was only too willing to surrender its park rights to the cause, for it also donated its funds to the library. The town donated the site, and the women of the town raised $3,000 which was matched by L.F. Dommerich, husband of the founder, as an endowment for the library's operation. Architect Charles B. Waterhouse drew the plans and donated them. Miss Maggie Simmons continued as librarian.

It's no wonder the town was proud in 1908 when "this gem of architecture" was dedicated "in the presence of an assembly, including friends from Altamonte and Winter Park that crowded the building."

With its wide central fireplace and a convenient kitchen, the library immediately began to serve not only as a repository for books, but as a popular community meeting place. The fireplace-centered room was a cozy area to sit and read, but also, with its grand piano, a fine place for concerts. There were lectures and community suppers as well. In 1910 the fence of brick and iron was built around the grounds, and in 1911 bronze letters were placed above the doors.

The library was open from 2 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, and on other days it was used by The Needlework Guild and for the myriad of other arts and social gatherings that took place there.

In the decade from 1910 to 1920 its interior was "modernized" with such technological advances as electric lights and its grounds expanded when adjacent land was donated by the Misses Mary C. and Clara M. Ely. The exterior was further enhanced when the Maitland Circle of the Garden Clubs planted trees and shrubs and the town and residents donated a sprinkler system.

'Good works' and bare-bones budgets

In 1924 Miss Stella Waterhouse was named librarian and henceforth dedicated her life to the loving care of the little white brick building and its collection that nurtured so many minds over the 30 years of her tenure. As with many generations of Maitland library supporters, her genealogy was entwined with the library and with Maitland history--her father, William, was an early settler, and her brother, Charles, was the building's architect. She retired in 1953, at the age of 82.

During the '20s boom the library board felt its good fortune had increased almost as much as that of the early land speculators. Many new books were bought, and local residents as well as winter visitors gave substantial numbers of reference books, biographies, scientific works and classics, as well as fiction and juvenile works. The annual circulation had increased until in 1926 it reached 3,140.

Appropriately, the board decided in 1927 to open the library three afternoons a week. By 1930, when the circulation had reached 4,300, the board opened the library every day from 3 to 6 p.m. Miss Stella, as she was always affectionately known, saw a salary increase from $25 to $50 a month!

But by 1932, the Florida boom had gone bust, and the Depression had spread over the nation; it was decided that the library couldn't afford to stay open six days a week, and hours reverted back to 3 to 6 p.m. three days a week. Although Miss Stella had to work many more than nine hours a week to keep the building running and the books on the shelves, her salary dropped back to $25; still, her dedication never waned.

In 1932, to give legal status to a now well-established institution, the board incorporated the library on March 29 under the laws of the State of Florida as a nonprofit corporation.

The next decades that embraced the World War II years saw slow but steady growth for the library; frugal administration kept it on solid ground. Volunteers held bake sales to raise money and helped maintain the grounds to save money.

In a March 29, 1948, letter to Alex L. Dommerich, president of the library board, secretary Anna B. Treat commended the board and volunteers on the "great success" of a Garden Tour and pointed out the board would be very cautious in spending the money raised. "There are some repairs that are essential but I hope we can keep them at a minimum until costs go down. The roof has not leaked at all this winter, so we should not have to worry over that."

Mr. Dommerich, who succeeded his father as president of the board, responded by underscoring the need for fiscal restraint. Such caution was understandable in those struggling years when the little independent library depended for its survival on fund-raising projects and the goodwill of the community through donations.

"...the Library ought to be congratulated on the good works that have been done," wrote Mr. Dommerich, "and also in regard to the Garden Tour, which I think was quite an event. As I understand it, you took in $300 from this Tour, but I really do not think that we should go to work now and spend this money. We should be very cautious about it and only spend money where it is necessary."

Growth and the 'necessity of life'

But where monetary caution was necessary, growth was not to be denied, especially after the Dommerich family sold their great 210-acre Lake Minnehaha estate for $420,000 in 1954, and the way was paved for an "exclusive subdivision" that would bring in hundreds of new families. By the late '50s demands for the library's services were increasing as rapidly as the population, and once again in its history a benefactor who had adopted the town as though he were a native came forward.

In 1959 George Morrison gave $45,445 for an expansion, 34-foot-long wings on the north and south of the building. The money he donated, plus additional contributions to the building fund, brought the total to more than $50,900. When the project was complete, expenses totaled $49,112. That amount provided for construction, including a new parking lot; landscaping; the purchase of library furniture, equipment and more books. While great credit can be given to the library board for its management in accomplishing these things for less than $50,000, one does pause to consider the changing value of the dollar as well.

At ceremonies for the opening of the new wings on May 7, 1960, the Reverend John F. Fedders eloquently dedicated the library "TO ALL CITIZENS of the town of Maitland and its environs who consider this building not a luxury but a necessity of life..."

That fall, a group of residents who believed firmly in the reverend's words got together and started the Friends of the Maitland Public Library. One of their first projects was to launch the popular library book sales, raising money through the sale of donated used books.

Those sales, held in April and October, have been more than a labor of love for loyal library supporters or a much-anticipated event for the community. The Friends' efforts over the years have raised thousands of dollars--since 1967, they have donated $75,000 to the library.

The sales began on the front lawn of the library and after the addition of the Multipurpose Room moved inside. Through the years, Julie Champion has been a guiding spirit as chairman of the sales. She and other volunteers have logged countless hours sorting and labeling used books that are deposited religiously in the green trash container in the parking lot and just as religiously organized and marked every Wednesday.

The Friends incorporated in 1976 and in 1984 published the *Best of Friends* cookbook as another fund-raising effort. Headed today by President Claire Simon, they have sponsored travelogues, political forums and literary and cultural programs for the community. Twice yearly the Friends publish a library newsletter and distribute it to all residents of Maitland.

With Maitland's growth in the 1960s, demands on the library grew even greater, much to the betterment of the collection. "Professional people were more demanding," says Elizabeth Wood, chairman of the Maitland Public Library Board of Trustees and a member of the board since 1962. "They wanted a good business collection, for example, and so we have a collection you wouldn't expect in a library of this size. They contributed to the growth and diversity of our collection."

But while the independent library continued to grow solidly in depth, its financial stability continued to depend on the goodwill of donors. Then, in 1965, the City of Maitland budgeted $12,332 toward the operating costs of the library.

Elizabeth Wood remembers those exact figures well, for that year was the beginning of the city's financial help that was to ease the board's fiscal concerns. "Until then our primary source of income came after we sent letters of appeal to all citizens in Maitland. We stuffed and licked and stamped and hoped we would get enough money to operate the next year."

Indeed, the city's budget line for the Maitland Public Library increased each year thereafter until it reached $34,140 in 1971 (the library board had agreed willingly after 1965 to send out no more ietters of appeal).

'A happy relationship'

By that time, however, it was apparent once again that the library needed to grow to accommodate the needs of its patrons. The city agreed to float a bond to finance the building of a new city hall as well as a library extension. Because the city could not use tax money to build on private property, the library board agreed to turn over all assets of the library--the grounds, building and collection--to the city.

With that agreement the city not only continued to fund the operating budget of the library but to maintain the building and grounds. "It is a happy relationship," says Elizabeth Wood. "What they did [the city accepting the transferral of property and leasing it back to the library] made it all work. We maintain the corporate structure and can still receive gifts."

"The city wanted us to keep the nonprofit corporate status for that purpose," says John Bolte, president of the Maitland Public Library, Inc. and a member of the board since 1972. With almost every construction addition the library has made, funds for such things as furnishings and equipment have come from the nonprofit corporation, he points out. "The corporation has also established a book endowment fund for donations and memorials. Interest on this endowment allows us to buy additional books for the library."

While the city maintains property and grounds, the library hires staff, manages operations and purchases its collections. Each year the Maitland Public Library Board submits an audit to the city, and each year it presents the Maitland City Council with a proposed budget for the coming year.

Today Mayor Robert Breaux enthusiastically agrees with Elizabeth Wood's opinion that the library has enjoyed a "happy relationship" with the city. "From all the comments I hear, it is one of our most prominent features. Everybody I talk to is positive not only about the library staff, but its collection and buildings." It is not uncommon, he adds, to get quite a turnout when a library request is on the City Council agenda. City staff, Mayor Breaux says, is both "very protective and very supportive of the library." When potential disasters threaten, the city staff takes all precautions to protect the building and collections under the city's Emergency Management Plan.

In July 1973, groundbreaking for the west wing was held. In March 1974, the new $227,944 addition opened, adding 5,000 square feet to the library. It was funded through $180,000 raised by the city bond issue and $47,944 from library funds.

The following year 75,000 books were circulated, 28,000 patrons had passed through the doors and there were 6,500 active library card holders. The library was open a full day every day and on three days a week until 9 p.m. A far cry from 1908 when it opened one afternoon a week, or even from the boom year of 1926 when its circulation was 3,140!

Positioning for a 'new age'

With physical expansion came more growth in collections and in usage of the library. Again it became apparent that the library needed more space, not only for its collections this time but for special programs as well.

Its most recent expansion, in 1989, has resulted in the Multipurpose Room and the growth of the west wing to create a larger children's area, with a new employees' lounge on the mezzanine and special rest room facilities for children. Total cost of this expansion phase was $400,000, partially paid for through a state Division of Library and Information Services grant administered by the city and through library funds. The grant was for a $333,000 construction project with the city contributing $165,000 of that amount. The library's contribution for refurbishment was $39,864.

The expansion brought the library's total square footage to 12,000, almost 10 times the size it had been when it opened 81 years before. And it provided more space for videos, books on tape for children and adults, a new book drop and a computerized magazine index.

Since Karen Potter joined the library as director of library services in 1992, the Story Book Room has been refurbished and the library has gone online with the OCLC (Online Computer Library Center, Inc.) for interlibrary loan, enabling patrons to get books available through other libraries in from three to four days. Today some 100 books a month are retrieved from other libraries through this service.

While the same friendly atmosphere that has always been an integral part of the library is as prevalent today as in Miss Stella's time, other technological advances have been added and will continue to be integrated in the system in the years to come. The TDD (Telecommunications Device for the Deaf) allows staff to communicate with deaf patrons via telephone lines. Staff members can access Internet and World Wide Web, and patrons have computer access to the Maitland Community Bulletin Board, giving such local information as city meeting dates, municipal job listings, contact people and phone numbers in various city jurisdictions and even school lunch menus.

The city has included in its capital improvement plan for 1996 $137,000 for library automation. Within the year, the library expects to have completely automated its system to allow staff and patrons to access the library's database through computers.

Ben Aycrigg, who has served on the library board for more than a decade and seen services move into the electronic age, looks forward to that time. "We're getting everything in position for a new age. You will be able to access the library from your home computer.

There will be an enormous expansion in the scope of library service. It's a big first, like science fiction."

The Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) will also aid in the circulation of all materials, keeping a computerized track of check-out and due dates and calculating fines. New acquisitions will be categorized and added to the database instantaneously.

Electronic advances will bring the library up to modern-day standards, yet library programs with the human touch, such as the summer reading program for children, have remained popular through the years. Other programs have been and will continue to be offered in answer to the interests of the times.

In this TV/video era, it is heartening to see as many as 30 youngsters turn up regularly for the Tuesday and Thursday Story Hours. Adult programs range from lectures to films on subjects as broad as the interests of Maitland residents-from travel and history to business and technology.

The library staff--grown considerably since Miss Stella managed the collection and the building during her nine-hour workweeks--now numbers fifteen with four librarians, two full-time support staff and nine part-time library assistants. Its collection numbered 74,553 print and materials last year, and its circulation was 112,314.

Gathered around the cozy fireplace, residents still browse through periodicals to keep abreast of current news from over the world or read novels to escape into the past, and, hopefully, that atmosphere established at the turn of this century will prevail into the next.

While Maitland will continue its support for this "necessity of life," and the library will carry into the future the gifts the community has bestowed during its 100 years of life, its potential at the beginning of a new age is beyond our intellectual imaginations.

Manatee County Public Library System

The City of Bradenton will be celebrating its one-hundredth year of public library service in 1998. According to Mrs.Catherine Ramsey, a former Manatee County Library System director, who wrote *The History of Library Service in Manatee County.*

The library program got started in Bradenton in 1898 when Mrs. Julia Fuller set up a circulation library with a shelf of books in the millinery department of Mrs. Bass dry goods store...This was a rental library, books being loaned for 5 cents a week....before long [it] was moved to the store of Miss America Sudbury.

By 1904, the collection had outgrown this location and plans were begun to build a separate library building. In 1907, "a one-room concrete structure with a porch across the front" was opened for business with Mr. Lucien Stone presiding as librarian and "assisted by the ladies of the library association."

Both Bradenton and Palmetto, the town just across the Manatee River, formed Village Improvement Associations in 1900 and within these associations were library committees, which eventually evolved into the Bradenton Library Association and the Palmetto Library Association.

Like Bradenton, Palmetto's library first location was part of a commercial establishment. Originally housed above a grocery store, the library soon moved to a larger location over a drugstore. Though Palmetto was two years behind Bradenton in starting its first library in 1900, it managed to secure funds from the Carnegie Foundation before Bradenton and was able to build a Carrnegie Library in 1914. Bradenton followed four years later with its Carnegie Library opening in October 1918.

The libraries in Bradenton and Palmetto supported by city taxes were free to city residents. County residents had to pay a non-resident fee. This system prevailed until the 1960s. At that time a number of factors combined to promote a major change in the structure of library service in Manatee County. Rapid population growth in the County, inadequate library funding, an awareness by the citizens of the communities that they were being left behind as far as library services went, and an important initiative from the State Library to assist smaller communities, prompted civic activism that resulted in the formation of a county-wide system.

Won over by the argument that combining the smaller operating bodies into larger administrative units would increase efficiency, save money and most importantly make the libraries eligible for a variety of federal grant programs, the three governing bodies of Bradenton, Palmetto and Manatee County drew up a contract on October 7, 1963 and began operating as a system on a trial basis in 1964, renewable yearly, with all parties having the option to withdraw at any time. This was the beginning of free library service in Manatee County!

After successfully operating on this year-to-year basis for about seven years, it was decided that a permanent agreement would be developed with a single tax levy to support the system. Up to this time city residents were being "double-taxed" as they paid both city and county taxes for library service. In addition, all three governing parties were maintaining separate fiscal records, though Bradenton was in theory responsible for all record-keeping. In 1971, the State of Florida passed the "Home Rule" Bill and governor-appointed boards were eliminated in favor of county appointed ones. The "Manatee County Free Public Library Act" became law on June 23, 1971. The County System was now officially established on a permanent basis with a separate taxing district and tax levy to support it. The County Commissioners also became responsible for appointing members to the Library Board.

The first major result of the expanded funding now available from federal grants was a bookmobile which began service to remote areas of the County in August 1964. Serving rural areas was an important requirement in the LSCA federal guidelines. In addition, Florida Library Association Standards stated that "no person should be more than 15 minutes driving time from a library outlet." The year 1966 brought a Talking Books program for the blind to the Palmetto Library. Besides these special services that were being offered for the first time, the libraries' collections were growing significantly and additional professionally trained staff were hired. As a consequence, these positive changes brought about major growth in library use, higher circulation and many more registered borrowers from the county and the city.

Federal, state and county funds along with local initiatives brought significant growth and expansion to the Manatee County Library System in the 1960s and 1970s. The Bayshore area was chosen as the first branch site and opened in September 1967. The next branch to be opened in 1969 was a small one on East Ninth Street in a building donated by the Manatee City School System. Assisted by federal and county funds, Palmetto was able to buy a lot and build a badly needed new building in 1969. Bradenton was making plans for a major expansion and was looking for a new site, as well. Island residents were decimating the bookmobile's collection, which made it clear that a branch was needed there. The Island Friends of the Library were instrumental in raising funds to match federal funding requirements and renovating a storefront in Holmes Beach. The Holmes Beach Branch opened in March 1970. In 1971, a senior citizens program was set up and the Score Brand Library and reading room was established on 12th Street. Again, federal grant money helped and bought a collection of "sightsaving" books for the branch.

The large modern Manatee County Central Library on the Manatee River opened its doors in April 1978. In her history, Catherine Ramsey, Library Director at the time, tellingly describes this major event:

> "In terms of the size of the building and the cost of construction, it is by far the largest building program embarked on in the entire history of the library program in the County....This work has been difficult, and at times painful and agonizing for both the Board Members and the County Commissioners, to say nothing of the Director who seemed all too often to be caught in the cross-fire."

Except for Anna Maria Island, where a new library was built in 1983 to replace the storefront facility, the 1980s were not a time of growth for the library system. Even the bookmobile service was discontinued to save badly needed funds.

It was not until the 1990s, during the tenure of the current Director, John C. Van Berkel, that the system was able to begin work on expansion plans again. Rapid population growth in interior regions of the formerly rural county made new library branches a necessity. In 1991 the Braden River Branch opened serving residents in the southeastern part of the county. The Rocky Bluff Branch opened in Ellenton on the northeastern side of the county in April 1994. The South Manatee Branch on Bayshore had outgrown its facility and reopened in a much larger building in July 1996. One year later in July 1997, Braden River moved into its new building. As the Talking Books Library continued to grow and gain patrons, it moved to increasingly larger quarters, from Palmetto, to Central and finally to South Manatee.

From 1900 to 1994 Manatee County's population grew from 4,663 to 228,283. Likewise, library service grew from two separate small city libraries across a river from each other, to a countywide system with a large central facility and five branches positioned strategically within the 747 square miles of the County.

MISSION AND GOALS

Today the Manatee County Public Library System's mission statement is as follows:

The Manatee County Public Library System seeks to provide a responsive, innovative, proactive program that is capable of upgrading the educational, cultural, and recreational quality of life in the community. This is done by featuring current high-demand, high-interest materials in a variety of formats; providing timely, accurate, and useful information, and encouraging children to develop an interest in reading and learning. (Library Policy Manual)

Following the guidelines of the Public Library Association, the Manatee County Public Library System has defined and prioritized its roles to match the community it serves. Because Manatee County has a varied population and a significantly large population of retired persons, the Long Range Planning Task Force chose as the library's primary role to be a Popular Materials Library. Secondarily the library system is to serve as a Reference Library and as the Preschooler's Door to Learning.

In support of its chosen mission and designated roles, the library's Collection Development Policy clearly explicates how the collection is to be shaped and prioritized. Within their policies is a clear "Freedom to Read" statement as well as procedures for handling any questions regarding collection content. Also included is a statement on protecting confidentiality of patron records.

In the library system's five-year plan (1995-2000), the major goals of the library are outlined. Included here are: completing the automation process; improving methods of requesting and transferring materials between facilities; and increasing hours of operation. Also mentioned are: increasing outreach initiatives; a post-automation staff reorganization, and improved coordination among the Board of Trustees, Friends' groups, the Library Foundation and other support groups.

The Manatee County Public Library System has clearly documented its attempts to use and follow established library standards. It is focusing on its mission and roles and working within guidelines put forth by the national and state library associations. The children's collection and the special programs offered are outstanding and demonstrate that a secondary role means focused attention not neglect. The up-to-date and heavily used reference collection also exemplifies how establishing roles can improve services.

Besides the popular reading collection, the reference collection and children's services, the Manatee County Public Library System offers a variety of other services. The library has an audiovisual collection with feature film, educational and instructional videos and a compact disc and cassette tape collection with popular and classic music, books on tape and instructional tapes. Mentioned earlier in the History of the system is the Talking Books Program which serves the blind and physically handicapped of both Sarasota and Manatee counties. An agreement with the Sarasota Public Libraries provides financial support from both counties.

In addition to basic reference service, the Adult Services Department at the Central library provides access to government documents, literary criticism sources, nationwide telephone directories, consumer information and interlibrary loan service. They serve as reader's advisors, conduct library tours, book talks and other special information programming. The

Eaton Florida History Room at the Central Library is a research collection with in-depth resources on Old Manatee County. There is also a Genealogy Collection with many resources for tracing ancestors.

ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION

The Manatee County Public Library System now operates under the direction of a five-member Board of Trustees appointed by the County Commissioners. The Board serves in an advisory capacity to the Library Services Manager and meets yearly, nless requested otherwise. The Library Services Manager heads the system and directly manages the Central Library. He reports to the Director of Information Services which is a Department in the County government structure headed by the County Administrator. The five branches are headed by Branch Supervisors who report to the Outreach Services Supervisor who is directly under the Library Services Manager.

In the fiscal year 1995/96 there were: 27 librarians with ALA accredited master's degrees; the equivalent of 40 full-time staff; 11 full-time volunteers; and varying numbers of public service workers. Together the volunteer and public service worker hours came to 22,711 for the year.

Library operating expenditures for 1995/96 totalled $3,478,493. Of this $1,887,395 were for staff, $383,121 for materials and $1,207,977 for all other operating expenditures including equipment, plant operations and telecommunications. During the same period the library's operating income was made up of $3,786,495 from County property taxes and $306,741 from State Funds and $316,553 from other income.

In addition there are active Friends groups at all of the libraries in the system. They support the libraries in a variety of ways, including fundraising, special programs and political action. The Library Foundation with a 31 member Board of Directors and 15 member Advisory Committee supports the library with major fundraising activities. The Foundation makes a significant contribution in funding library services not available through traditional tax base funding. The Friends and Foundation publish a newsletter reporting on news, events and activities at all the libraries.

STATISTICS

More than a million library materials circulated in fiscal year 1995/96 in the county library system. Even at the smallest branch, Rocky Bluff, 40,812 materials circulated. There were estimated to be 869,661 patron visits and 235,999 reference questions. Approximately 1605 meetings and programs were held and with 32,314 persons in attendance. In addition, 287 special outreach programs were conducted outside of the library with 12,366 persons attending.

The implementation of an automated online library system in July, 1996 and the subsequent inventory and barcoding of all library materials brought the total number of book volumes to about 306,252, considerably less than previous figures based on the card catalog. The total collection size including microforms, government documents, audio/visual materials and miscellaneous materials currently totals more than half a million. As the database is cleaned up the collection size figures will change. In addition, there are large uncataloged paperback collections that are not included in the total. As of April 1996, there were 435 serial titles including periodicals and newspapers in any format and 795 serials subscriptions.

The new automated system required reregistering all borrowers. The current number of registered borrowers is 40,000+. Before automation, the number was 90,000+. The numbers are increasing daily as patrons make the switch from their old library card to the barcoded version.

Martin County Library System

1903 Woman's Club Charter indicates formation of Library as first of three priorities.

1916 Woman's Club of Stuart purchased the Christian Endeavor Hall in Stuart for Library and meeting place.

1933 CEH destroyed by hurricane. Woman's Club deed property to City of Stuart and City applies to Federal WPA program to rebuild Library. When completed, City returned property to Woman's Club.

1934 WPA building on Albany Avenue completed as a public library for Stuart.

1955 Ocean Boulevard land for Library donated by Willard Kiplinger.

1956 Library Association (Friends of the Stuart Library) founded.

1957 Opened the Martin County Public Library on Ocean Boulevard. W. Kiplinger donated remaining 2 lots on block to Woman's Club.

1962 Addition to Stuart Library brought total to 6,500 SF.

1968 Old bookmobile retired.

1976 Addition to Stuart Library brought total to present 18,270 SF.

June 1982 Friends of the Hobe Sound library founded.

January 1985 Opened Hobe Sound Branch in renovated rental quarters. 3,800 SF.

1985 New bookmobile donated by the Library Association.

1985 Trailer placed in Indiantown (Opened 20 hrs./wk.).

October 1986 Friends of the Jensen Beach Library founded.

November 1988	Friends of the Indiantown Library founded.
June1989	Opened Jensen Beach Branch in renovated, (Post Office) rental quarters. 4,700 SF (4,264 square feet net).
October 1989	Friends of the Palm City Library founded.
May 1991	Opened new Indiantown Branch. 5,009 SF.
October 1991	Selected Library operations.
October 1991	Began operating County Law Library.
December 1991	Purchased 5 acres on US Hwy. 1 for permanent Hobe Sound Branch. Approximately 5 acres, to be shared with District.
February 1992	Chautauqua South programming established as public-private collaborative division of library system.
October 1992	County Law Library became official branch (ordinance) and State statute.
December 1992	Community Answers (information collaborative) established, precursor to MCNET.
October 1993	Began dial access into library's on-line (SIRSI) catalog for general public.
October 1994	Migrate main library software to County SUN platform.
December 1994	Stuart/main library connected to county network via fiber-optics.
June 1995	Open Palm City Branch. 10,000 SF.
March 1996	Referendum for 1% for one year sales surtax passed by referendum to help fund 5 year Library capital expansion program.

December 1996 Refurbished bookmobile into Story Express, outreach to children and daycare workers.

May 1997 Library Netscape system begun.

July 1997 Began construction, new Stuart main library (39,000 SF).

August 1997 Law Library electronic services begun.

1997 Hobe Sound Branch working drawings in progress (10,500 SF).

IN PLANNING STAGES:

- Systemwide CD-ROM network - Prolepsis.
- Remote access to Law Library.
- Mid-County Library, Salerno Road site, 15,000 SF.
- Jensen Beach Library, 10,000 SF.
- Indiantown Branch Library addition, 10,000 SF.

Mary Esther Public Library

(Member, Okaloosa County Public Library Cooperative)

A Public Library for Mary Esther was proposed to Mayor Tom Pryor and the Town Council on February 4, 1974 by a small group of volunteers and by donated books.

The proposal was for an opening date of June 1, 1974. The annual cost for membership in the library was $1.00 per person and $5.00 per family.

Fees were applicable to residents and non-residents. At this point the facility was not tax-supported.

The first square footage was approximately 585 square feet, then later expanded to 810 square feet.

In October 1976 Mary Esther Community Library was renamed, and became the "Mary Esther Public Library."

The "Friends of the Library" group was formed May 29, 1977.

Officers of that group were elected June 13, 1977. Chairman: Jay Edwards; Secretary: Janet Sulzbach; Treasurer: Joan Nolan Publicity; Chairman: Fred Sulzbach.

Also in 1977 a County-wide Library System was proposed.

On August 28, 1977 the Library added the new reference room. Employees consisted of the Librarian and two full time Library Aides plus volunteer workers.

November 29, 1988 The Friends of the Library presented the City Council with a petition signed by voters going to and returning from the polls stating that they wanted a new and bigger library.

On February 6, 1989 the Council decided on the new library, site and size.

June 18, 1989 again the Okaloosa County Library System issue arose, and again it failed.

June 5, 1990 the news was carried that the State Legislature had agreed to give the City of Mary Esther $ 175,000.00 in matching funds to build a new library.

February 28, 1991 at 1:30 p.m. the Ground Breaking for the Library took place at Hollywood Boulevard and Christobal Road.

March 9, 1992 the new Library opened to the Public.

Miami-Dade Public Library System

By S. J. Boldrick, Florida Collection Manager

1998

The Miami-Dade Public Library System traces its origin to the late nineteenth century. In 1894 libraries were organized in the communities of Cocoanut Grove and Lemon City. In 1902 the Cocoanut Grove Library Association provided a structure, and that same year the Lemon City Library and Improvement Association erected a building for its library. The City of Miami's library was founded through the efforts of the Ladies' Afternoon Club which later became the Women's Club of Miami. Its purpose was "reading and the discussion of literature." By 1905 the Club was trying to provide a public reading room for its collection of books. The Club had no permanent home and for a number of years the reading room moved from place to place, as often as six times in a single year! Miami was still a small town with about 4,700 permanent residents. By 1913 the Miami Women's Club had its own building located at the corner of today's SE Second Avenue and Flagler Street (then Avenue B and Twelfth Street) on property donated by Henry Morrison Flagler. His gift of land for the construction of a clubhouse contained a proviso that a public reading room be maintained in the building.

Reliable financial support for the library was a continuing problem and in 1915 the Miami City Commission was convinced of its responsibility to support the library and $50 each month was allocated to its support. This downtown location was later sold and the Miami Women's Club erected its current building at 1737 North Bayshore Drive. The Flagler Memorial Library was established in this new building . By 1925 the communities of Cocoanut Grove and Lemon City had been annexed into the City of Miami. The first bookmobile was proudly pictured in the Miami Herald of January 8, 1928. The first public library serving the Black community was the Dunbar Branch at 2059 NW 6th Court established March 14, 1938 by the Friendship Garden Club assisted by the Miami Women's Club. While the Dunbar Branch was being used, the Friendship Garden Club and the Washington Heights Library Association raised part of the funds to build a new library building.

The City of Miami appropriated the remainder of the money to construct a structure on land donated by Black philanthropist D. A. Dorsey. The one-story concrete block and stucco building was named the Dorsey Memorial Library and opened on August 13, 1941 under the supervision of the Miami Public Library's head librarian. This was the first public library building owned by the City of Miami. The City of Miami thus had several community libraries receiving various amounts of financial support from public funds. In 1942 it was decided to bring all of these libraries together in a single public library system governed by a Board of Trustees and administered by a Head Librarian with administrative headquarters in a new downtown library. A new main library building had been proposed for Bayfront Park in downtown Miami as early as 1938 but the proposal did not become a reality until more than a decade later. Miamians anxiously began using their new library in Bayfront Park on July 2, 1951 even before its formal dedication on July 27 of that year.

The following years brought a number of new neighborhood libraries, and the closing and consolidation of others. In April 1957 the subscription library in Coconut Grove became part of the system while eight new branches were constructed in the next eight years. In December 1965 the City of Miami and Metropolitan Dade County reached an agreement whereby the City of Miami would provide public library service to Unincorporated Dade County and to those municipalities that did not provide their own municipal library service. At this time two existing municipal libraries, Coral Gables and South Miami, entered into the agreement with Metropolitan Dade County and were included in the new public library system. A year later the Miami Springs Library was added to the system. Library service to the unincorporated area was provided by four bookmobiles. On November 1, 1971 the City of Miami transferred its library system to Metropolitan Dade County which created a new Department of Libraries with a Director reporting directly to the County Manager. The passage of the "Decade of Progress" bond issue in November 1972 included $34.7 million for the construction of public libraries. While some municipalities elected to continue providing public library service through their own municipal operations, the City of Homestead's public library joined the County system on January 1, 1975.

The Hispanic Branch (Rama Hispanica) serving a primarily Spanish-speaking clientele opened August 2, 1976 in Little Havana. On July 19, 1985 the new Main Library of the Miami-Dade Public Library System opened on the Cultural Plaza adjacent to the new downtown Government Center as headquarters for a system which had grown to 31 libraries. August 24, 1992 is a date burned into Dade County's collective memory. Hurricane Andrew's howling winds inflicted significant damage to the library system, completely devastating Homestead, South Dade Regional, Coral Reef, and West Kendall Regional libraries. Nearly every library and nearly every employee was directly affected. Thanks to massive efforts and effective leadership, the library system was rebuilt stronger than ever so that today the Main Library and its 30 regional and branch libraries serve a population of 1,710,000.

New Port Richey Public Library

The New Port Richey Public Library was founded on December 22, 1919 by Dr. Elroy McKendree of Cleveland, Ohio and named the Avery Library and Historical Society. The Library officially opened its doors, February 1920, in the Snell Building on Main Street with Mrs. R.F. Conover as librarian. The City of New Port Richey incorporated in 1925 and began assisting the library financially, with the governance being handled by the Library Board of Trustees. The next library director was Dr. Holway who served from December 1925 until March 1948. The Library through the years moved several times and evidently located at 113 East Main Street. Laura Powell became Library Director from 1948-1954 followed by Ellene Kroll (1954-1959) and Barbara Clark (1959-May 1965). A new building was built by the City of New Port Richey in 1963. Janet Lewis took over as Library Director in 1965 and remained until 1980. During this period an auditorium and reading room were added (1966). The Library Board of Trustees converted the auditorium into a reference Room due to a lack of space in 1973. Upon the retirement of Janet Lewis in 1980, Donna Riegel was named Library Director. It was during this period (1980-1986) that the Library Board of Trustees turned over governance of the Library to the City of New Port Richey. In December 1986 Jane Schwamberger became Library Director. Ms. Schwamberger was instrumental in automating the card catalog and joining the SUNLINE Database through the Tampa Bay Library Consortium.

The New Port Richey City Council authorized a renovation and expansion program in 1987 for the present City Hall and Library. Gee and Jensen Engineers-Architects-Planners, Inc. of West Palm Beach, Florida were selected to design and construct the new complex. The library was to occupy the old City Hall building which was originally an old school building built in 1926. The renovation resulted in a 15,230 square foot library which retained the English

Renaissance styled brick walls and windows. The Library received a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) Grant of $400,000 for the project. The total project cost approximately $1 million. The ground-breaking ceremony was held August 30, 1988 with the following participants: City Manager, Charles McCool,; Mayor Robert Prior; Council Members, Peter Altman, Fran Oreto, and O.J. Brisky; former Council Members, Jean Rose and Bill Tatum; and Library Director, Jane Schwamberger.

The Library was moved to temporary quarters in the Rockville Center Building at 6351 Massachusetts Avenue on February 6, 1989 and remained there until March 1991. During this time Jane Schwamberger, Library Director resigned and Susan Dillinger was hired as her replacement in October 1990. The building project was completed in February 1991 and the library was moved to its new quarters in March 1991. The Friends of the Library assisted in fund-raising and the acquisition of new furniture and equipment for the library. The new library was opened to the public in April 1991. The formal dedication ceremony was held in May 1991 with Mayor Peter Altman, City Manager Gerald Seeber, Council Members Dell de Chant, William Partridge, Debra Prewitt and Nelson Vogel; Library Director Susan Dillinger; Library Staff; Library Advisory Board Members; Friends of the Library; and other distinguished guests. The Singing Strings provided a classical music setting.

The Library received LSCA Grant funding ($35,000) in October 1991 for the establishment of an adult literacy program. This program, in conjunction with the Pasco County School's Reading Assistance Program (RAP), instructs adults through the use of computers how to read and write. The Library received a second grant of $35,000 in 1994 to expand its program. The Library also formed an alliance with the Senior Community Services Employment Program

(SCSEP) of the American Association for Retired Persons (AARP) to provide computer training to their clients.

The Library received a LSCA Collection Development Grant ($25,000) for the purchase of resource materials to support local businesses and the New Port Richey Community Cooperative. This grant greatly enhanced the reference and circulating business collections and provided for our first reference materials on CD-ROM.

The Library received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for equipment for the visually impaired in 1994 and Teacher Quest Grant funds in 1995 and 1996. The Library also remodeled the second floor and expanded the meeting room seating capacity from fifty (50) to two hundred (200) as well as equipping the room with computer network and Internet connections. In 1996 the Library moved from the GEAC automation system and a Novell network to DYNIX and a Windows NT network. The result of this change was the ability of staff and patrons to access library resources here and around the world graphically. The Library also received a LSTA FloriNet Basic Grant ($10,900) in 1997 to install videoconferencing equipment in the meeting rooms.

The New Port Richey Public Library continues to grow and strives to meet the needs of its community.

New River Public Library Cooperative

(Baker, Bradford, and Union Counties)

Prepared by Virginia K. Bird, Director

January 1998

An interlocal agreement was signed in June 1996 by Baker, Bradford, and Union County Commissions after investigation of other Cooperative structures and agreements in Florida.

The library directors and interested citizens from each county met and forwarded recommendations to each county's advisory board and County Commission for approval. A governance structure was developed and approved. The director of Union County Public Library was appointed acting administrative head and the Cooperative, with the assistance of a consultant, developed a long range plan for the Cooperative and each library during the summer of 1996.

In May 1997, that same acting administrative head was appointed director of the Cooperative.

The Cooperative supports the three member libraries in areas of networking, Internet connections', automation, continuing education and outreach services in the areas of children's programming. A bookmobile is planned in the future.

North Miami Public Library

The first library services to area residents were offered in 1932, when the Biscayne Park Woman's Club established a library in the City Hall of the Town of North Miami. Club member E. May Avil, who eventually served 37 years as City Clerk for North Miami, was put in charge of overseeing the library's operation.

World War II brought about the close of the library as unessential to the war effort. However, the North Miami Community Library was reopened in September, 1945, in larger quarters at City Hall and again under the supervision of E. May Avil. Funding came largely from donations and membership fees.

In 1948, the Biscayne Park Woman's Club turned the library over to the Town of North Miami, with Mayor Ed Taigman accepting. A referendum, held in 1949, established a free public library under provisions of the Florida Statutes, setting up a Library Fund and a Library Board to administer the operation. Twin sisters Mrs. Edla Lunden and Mrs. Alma Anderson were appointed Librarian and Assistant Librarian respectively. The first Library Board appointees were Mr. Ed Constance, Mr. Sam Segal, Jr., Mr. D. W. Robbins, Mrs. Sally Taigman and Mrs. Edna Forbes.

In 1952, the Town Council deeded the present site to the Library Board. A $54,000 air-conditioned building was constructed in 1953. With equipment and furnishing the total investment was $70,000.

Mrs. Lunden and Mrs. Anderson retired in 1955 and they were replaced by the first professional librarian, Miss Phyllis Gray, who served until 1959. Mrs. Julia Wanner accepted the position at that time and directed the library's growth for 19 years, retiring in 1978.

The library grew steadily under Mrs. Wanner's guidance both in size and service. Primary to her accomplishments was the completion, in 1964, of an addition which doubled the size of the 1953 building. In answer to a growing number of young families, a branch was operated on the City's westside from 1957-1967.

In 1970, Miss E. May Avil was recognized for her years of service to the City and for her interest in the growth and well being of the library, when the City Council voted unanimously to rename the building to be known as the E. May Avil North Miami Public Library.

Upon Mrs. Wanner's retirement, Mrs. Gloria Zavish was promoted from Assistant Director to Director. Services and programs have grown to include a Books-By-Mail Homebound Service, the development of audio and video collections, the establishment of a literacy library and training site, and the addition of special print collections such as Stage and Studio, Bicentennial of the Constitution, and Parenting books. Again the library doubled in size with construction and furnishing of a $1.3 million addition which was completed in 1991.

Work continues to introduce new information technology and automated library procedures into the library. In FY 1994, the City appropriated funds for Retrospective Conversion, the first phase of the Library's Automation Project. In subsequent years, financial support for this particular effort continued culminating in a Request for Proposals for an Integrated On-Line Library System in July 1997. In August 1997, a grant was secured from the State Library to provide Internet access to the public.

The years from 1991-1997 witnessed an explosive growth in the Library's audiobooks and Large Print titles. Deposit collections of Large Print books have been established in several local nursing homes and adult congregate living facilities.

The Children's Puppet Shows and Storytimes continue to be popular; some even have been videotaped and shown on local cable TV. Numerous young adults have fulfilled their Community Service Hour requirements by volunteering at the Library as tutors, artists, puppeteers, etc.

A Community Development Block Grant was secured by the Library in 1995 to purchase equipment which translates written materials into either speech or braille. More CDBG money became available in 1997 allowing the Library to furnish and equip a Lifelong Learning Center wherein patrons may pursue such personal goals as a GED (General Equivalency Diploma), English as a Second Language, etc.

Northwest Regional Library System

(Bay, Gulf, and Liberty Counties)

Bay County's first library was established in 1911 in Lynn Haven through the efforts of the Woman's Literary Club. As interest in establishing a library in Panama City grew, editorials appeared in the *Panama City Pilot* newspapers and citizens wrote letters to the editor. On November 20, 1913, an article in the *Pilot* reported several reasons why every community should have a public library:

> Public libraries are an essential part of a complete educational system.... Society is required to educate the man of forty just as much as the boy of five.... The library helps workers do their work.... The library furnishes rest, relief and recreation for tired workers.... The public library helps make intelligent citizens.... By its cooperative principle, the library makes one dollar do the work of many.

How well this writer understood the public library. The article continued:

> Panama City could scarcely do a public act that would be as beneficial as starting a public library. The town shouldn't have a library that is simply a collection of books upon the shelves that are only now and then referred to. No library should be started without the adoption from the beginning of a perfect system, both as to the selection, care, and distribution of the books but as to the means by which the library shall accomplish the greatest good to the greatest number.

Citizens interested in forming a library met in January 1914 and formed an organization called The Panama City Library Association. It was several months later before the library was actually established.

Through the years to come, the Woman's Club played a major role in the development of the public library in Bay County. Though many people of the community tried to keep the library open, the library didn't have a place to call its own. In fact, the library moved so many times that it was often referred to as The traveling library.

In 1939, Miss Bessie Norton, librarian of the high school, spearheaded an organization called Friends of the Bay County Free Public Library. Two WPA workers were assigned to the library of forty books, one table and one chair. All that was needed was a building to call its own. The citizens of the community rallied to the library cause and a partially finished building was located in Washington Park next to the Post Office on Jenks Avenue. Through great effort, money was raised, and on September 10, 1941 the building in Washington Park was dedicated as a library.

The library shared the building. We had two rooms and one bathroom with the Chamber of Commerce. Library books were checked out by hand stamp; bookshelves were so full that many returned books had to be stacked on top of the card catalog or the floor. As one library patron said: One visits the Bay County Public Library only if he is entirely free of claustrophobia. It was a great day when the Chamber of Commerce moved into a new building and the other two rooms and bathroom were available to the library.

By 1960, the library had almost doubled its services. We had a bookmobile and the McMullen Library in Lynn Haven became a part of the county system. In September 1960, the

Bay County Free Public Library was incorporated as the Bay County Public Library Association, Inc. The Association contracted with the Bay County Board of Commissioners to provide library services to our citizens. In 1962, the library purchased a second bookmobile and the Association contracted with Washington County and formed the Northwest Regional Library System.

In 1962, the Bay County Public Library also was in the middle of a building fund campaign. The land and buildings in Washington Park were sold to the federal government and the library moved again to the Christo Dime Store building on Harrison Avenue. We were to be in the storefront for only a year, but, three years later, we were still there and growing. Gulf, Calhoun, and Walton Counties joined the library system.

In May 1967, the library building on the City Marina was completed and it was time to move again. With typical thrift, the library staff, a few volunteers and the Boy Scouts moved the bulk of 60,000 volumes into the new building. Library Director Jane Patton reminded the staff: Although we (now) have a beautiful new building, library service and people are still more important.

As the Sixties gave way to the Seventies, Walton County withdrew from the System. In 1973 and 1974, Liberty and Holmes Counties joined the Northwest Regional Library System; we served six counties covering 3,946 square miles.

The end of the Seventies brought more changes to the library. Springfield Public Library opened. During the height of the gas shortage, the library decided to discontinue bookmobile library service. There were a lot of good memories of riding the highways and dirt roads on the bookmobile trail, but times were changing. A federally-funded program, Mail-a-Book Library Service, took the place of the bookmobiles until funds for that project ended.

The Eighties began with a new library building at Panama City Beach. The early Eighties were lean years; federal funding --library project grants, federal revenue sharing funds, public employment funds -- were slashed or eliminated. Open hours were reduced, book budgets cut, employees laid off. Under new administration in 1985, the library began a restructuring program to improve services by reorganizing staff and collections. New funding structures for regional and municipal libraries were implemented. In 1986, Calhoun County Library received additional local funding and withdrew from the System to form its own county-wide system.

By the turn of the decade, the stress of limited funding began to take its toll throughout the System. Reductions to the ad valorem tax base made it difficult for funding agencies to increase or even sustain library appropriations. In 1991, Washington County withdrew from the System; in 1992, Holmes County and Lynn Haven libraries withdrew.

In 1992, the State Library recognized that smaller, rural counties were in serious need of assistance -- library services were being threatened. In recognition of the vast variation in financial resources among Florida counties and regions, rules governing the State Aid to Libraries Program were revised to include an equalization formula that was structured to provide an effective supplement to local funds and provide multi-county grants as an incentive for counties to join together to provide cost-effective library service. While the discrepancy in financial resources has not been overcome, the investment in public library service by the state enables NWRLS libraries to better meet the needs of the "information society" of the future.

Although the Nineties began with some downward trends, it also opened with dramatic technological changes for the library. The project to convert the system's holdings into machine-readable format was completed. Intelligent Catalogs of the system's holdings were placed in all libraries. These CD-ROM catalogs and computerized circulation systems provide information on and access to the materials available in System libraries.

In the second half of the decade, the library continues to utilize technology to provide information through on-line database searching, Internet access, CD-ROM databases and networks. Linkages through the Panhandle Library Access Network add another dimension to resource-sharing capabilities. Fax machines transmit information between libraries and directly to the patron. Networking among libraries of the NWRLS, other public libraries, academic libraries, school libraries, special libraries provide access to resources that meet the educational, working, cultural, and leisure needs and interests of patrons wherever the material is without regard to their own location.

Portions of the above history were written by staff member, Ann Robbins, and presented May 28, 1987, at the 20th Anniversary Celebration of the dedication of the Bay County Public Library Building.

Oldsmar Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

RANSOM ELI OLDS AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

Contributed by Ann Liebermann

The City of Oldsmar sits on the Eastern edge of Pinellas County at the Northern end of Tampa Bay. A charming town with lovely oaks and beautifully planted medians, it is like a breath of fresh air in the midst of Pinellas County, the most densely populated county in the State. Strip malls, fast food restaurants, and crowded highways dominate much of the area, but the little town of Oldsmar has the distinct flavor of a sleepy Florida town.

The raw essence of old Florida has been well preserved in Oldsmar. There is a small town feel augmented by a feeling of space. The city is thoughtfully planned with the streets fanning out from Shore Drive along Tampa Bay. Many houses both new and old, grand and modest, sit on large treed lots. The main street in town is State Street, home to City Hall, the Library, and the fire station. Park Boulevard stretches from City Hall on State Street to R. E. Olds Park located on the edge of the sparkling waters of Old Tampa Bay. The view of the bay is spectacular from Shore Drive. Much of the shore line is undeveloped parkland and is a gentile reminder of the incredible natural beauty that remains in some parts of Florida.

There were only a handful of settlers in the area in 1913 when Ransom Eli Olds decided to purchase 37,541 acres on the northern tip of Tampa Bay from Richard Peters in what is the present day Oldsmar. At the age of 52, the inventor of the Oldsmobile and REO cars embarked on a grand undertaking, turning the untamed land in northern Tampa Bay into a bustling community. He paid $400,000 for the land $200,000 in cash, $75,000 in bonds and a $125,000 apartment house in Daytona Beach. The town was originally named R. E. Olds-On-The-Bay. The name was later changed to Oldsmar. In 1927 the name was changed again to Tampa Shores, and finally in 1937 it was changed back to Oldsmar.

The early settlers had to contend with water from cisterns and individual wells. Cheesecloth was used to sieve the mosquito larva out of the water. The city built a water tower in the twenties and water was pumped into it every morning and sulfur water flowed from the taps. Somehow a faucet with St. Petersburg water was installed by the railroad tracks and everyone brought jugs to fill for drinking water. The nearest stores were located in Tarpon Springs and Dunedin.

Strategically situated between Tampa and St. Petersburg, Oldsmar was ripe for development. The long bridges across the bay had not yet been built and the shortest way from Tampa to St. Petersburg was through Oldsmar. Olds designed a community for working people rather than for the wealthy. He used engineers and surveyors from Boston to design a well platted community, modeled after Washington, D.C., with tree lined boulevards leading from the bay to downtown. A power plant that served parts of Safety Harbor, Dunedin, and Clearwater was constructed. The streets were paved with oyster shells obtained nearby. R. E. Olds named many streets himself. Woodward, Jefferson, and Congress reminded him of Detroit. Olds named Gim Gong Road after a Chinese American horticulturist from Deland Florida. Gim Gong was working on developing frost resistant citrus crops. The streets of Oldsmar were unusually wide and more than 20 miles of sidewalk were installed. Over the years much of the sidewalk was buried under a layer of sand.

Advertisements glorifying the virtues of Oldsmar were placed in the Detroit papers. He used the slogan Oldsmar for Health, Wealth and Happiness. He tried to entice Northern companies to move their businesses to Oldsmar by offering cheap labor. Olds spent $100,000 drilling the infamous oil well that yielded water not oil. It has been said that oil was poured into the well each morning to make it look like they had struck black gold. The oil well is now capped and sits on the grounds of the Tampa Bay Downs Racetrack. (There were three other oil wells in Florida, one in Sarasota and two in the panhandle but none of them possessed the technology to drill through the Florida aquifer).

The first library in Oldsmar was started by the Woman's Club in 1919. In 1977 the Oldsmar Library was donated to the city and moved from the Woman's Club building to State Street in the City Hall Annex. At this time the Friends of the Library was established to help promote the library. The first school in town was located in a church at the intersection of Buckingham and Jefferson Avenues. Another early school had one room for first, second, third and fourth grades, a second room for sixth, seventh and eighth grades, and high school was in the hall. The Post Office was downtown in the middle of an animal display park featuring alligators. During the 1921 hurricane, all the alligators escaped.

Original plans for Oldsmar included a golf course and a luxurious hotel on the bay but neither ever materialized. A saw mill and foundry that made cast iron engines for tractors and grove heaters became established. The mill produced the Olds Chair (also called the Oldsmar Chair)--a sturdy chair made out of either yellow pine or cypress. The Olds Chair was similar to the Adirondack Chair and it was sold throughout the United States.

Olds provided financial backing for Kardell Tractor and Truck Company to move into town. Renamed Oldsmar Tractor Co., Olds was hoping they could devise a machine to cut through the palmetto roots. Building roads and clearing land was frustrating and expensive in Florida. The palmetto roots were impervious to bull dozers and other northern machines.

Oldsmar had dairy farms and farms of peppers, tomatoes, corn, gladioli and grapes. In the early days, it was not uncommon for cattle and hogs to run loose through town. A huge banana plantation was established on the bay but the winters were too harsh for it to flourish for long. The waters at the northern end of the bay were clean during the twenties and thirties. Fishing, oystering and crabbing were wonderful. Towns people could take their catch to the Rex Cafe to be cooked. Big fish fries and dances were a weekly event.

Oldsmar sits like a plateau where the land elevation never rises higher than 20 feet above sea level. In 1921, the town was hit by a devastating hurricane. Large pine trees were uprooted and most of the town flooded by water levels 14 feet above normal. Some of the oldest homes built in Oldsmar remain on Park Boulevard. Many homes still standing after the hurricane were moved by barge to St. Petersburg during the 1920s and 1930s.

Olds had over 4.5 million dollars invested in the community in 1923. When he realized Oldsmar was not growing as he had anticipated, he started liquidating his assets. He started selling the unplatted parcels of land. The racetrack was nearly completed when he traded it for the Fort Harrison Hotel in Clearwater. The rest of the land was traded for the Belerive Hotel in Kansas. Ransom E. Olds left the town of Oldsmar after suffering a financial loss of nearly $3,000,000. Olds envisioned a city of 100,000. The population of Oldsmar was only about 200 when he left.

Harry A. Prettyman, a St. Louis promoter, and his associates continued to sell lots in town after Olds left. Prettyman staged promotional gimmicks like Gold Rushes where pieces of gold were buried on a vacant lot and everyone got to dig for it. In 1927 Prettyman was caught selling underwater lots. To avoid scandal, the town of Oldsmar was renamed Tampa Shores. It wasn't until 1935 that the last of the property owned by R. E. Olds was finally sold.

TIMELIME: FROM THEN TO NOW

12,000-10,000 B.C.	First People in Florida.
10,000-6,500 B.C.	Paleo-Indian. Drier climate. Sea level 200 feet lower than it is today. Prehistoric animals from the Pleistocene Epoch are still living in Florida when first people arrive.
8,000-10,000 B.C.	Ft. Walton Temple Mound site is occupied.
6,500-1,000 B.C.	Archaic. Ice age glaciers are melting causing the sea level to rise and the climate to change. Florida is covered with hardwood forests. The largest land animal is White Tailed Deer. People build canoes, make nets and pottery.
5,000-2,000 B.C.	Sea level about where it is today and Florida has almost the same shape as it has today.
5,000 B.C.	Crystal River site is occupied.
2,000-1,200 B.C.	Florida people begin making pottery. Hardwood forests in Florida change to pine and a mixed forest.
10,000 B.C.-1,600 A.D.	Woodland. Clay pottery is perfected. Woodland people are more settled and their villages are permanent.

1,600 B.C.-800 A.D. Mississippian Culture flourishes in the panhandle, an agricultural society grows corn, beans and squash. Florida's people live in large villages and build mounds for burial and ceremonial purposes.

200-800 A.D. Development of the Weedon Island pottery found in St. Petersburg.

1500 Crystal River site abandoned for no apparent reason.

1513 Ponce de Leon lands and claims Florida for Spain.

1528 Panifilo de Narv ez, first European explores Pinellas County area.

1539 Hernando de Soto lands on Florida coast with 600 soldiers.

1549 Father Cancer dies. First missionary in area.

156[?] Le Moyne draws the Saturiwa tribe.

1564 Ft. Caroline established by French.

1565 St. Augustine Fort established by Spain.

1656 Timucua revolt.

17[?] Seminole tribes move to Florida from Georgia.

1763 All original native people of Florida are gone.

" England gains control of Florida in exchange for Cuba.

1765 First use of name Seminole in de Brahm's 1765 maps.

177[?] First references to Florida Crackers appear in Spanish documents.

1776 Signing of Declaration of Independence.

1781 Spain regains Florida.

1783 End of War of Independence.

1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend. Creeks defeated by Andrew Jackson.

1818 First Seminole War.

1821 Spain turns Florida over to U.S.

1822 The Floridas are unified with a territorial governor.

1824 Tallahassee made capital of Florida.

1830 Florida Population estimated at 34,730.

1832 Treaty of Payne's Landing requires Seminoles to relocate in the west.

18[?] Count Odet Phillippe plants first orange groves in Pinellas County. Safety Harbor.

1834-37 Florida's first railroads begin operation.

1835-42 Second Seminole War.

1837 Osceola captured under a flag of truce.

1842 3,824 Indians and African Americans relocated.

1845 Florida admitted to Union as 27th State.

" Florida population 57,921.

1850-58 Third Seminole War.

1850 Florida population 87,445 (including 39,000 slaves and 1,000 free African Americans).

1851 John Corrie of Apalachicola granted a patent for an air conditioner.

1855 Internal Improvement Act offers cheep public land to investors as an incentive to establish a statewide railroad and canal transportation system.

1855 Draining southern part of Florida begins.

1859 Seminole uprising.

1861-65 Civil War. Florida is 3rd State to leave Union.

" Tampa Bay blockaded and soldiers ransack property and steal food.

1861 Florida voting population only 14,374 but 16,000 serve in Civil War. Estimated 1000 enlisting in Union Army and 2,000-3,000 desert Confederacy to join Union.

1864 Birth of Ransom Eli Olds in Geneva Ohio.

1870 Florida Population 187,748.

1876 Tarpon Springs settled.

1880-90 Cigar manufacturing moves from Key West to Ybor City.

1880 First telephone exchange opens in Jacksonville, 4 years after Alexander Graham Bell's first telephone call.

1881 Phosphate discovered in Central Florida. Florida remains leading producer of Phosphate in the world.

1884 First train in Henry Plant system arrives in Tampa.

1886 Ransom Eli Olds builds his first gasoline powered automobile.

1887 Sponge fishing moves from Key West to Tarpon Springs.

1888 The Orange Belt railroad line reaches St. Petersburg.

" First shipment of Phosphate from Peace River.

1889 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Florida results in creation of first State Board of Health.

1890 Florida Population 381,422.

" Frederick Remington visits Arcadia and sketches Cracker Cowboys.

1894-99 Spanish American War creates embarkation camps at Tampa, Miami & Jacksonville. 66,000 troops, including Teddy Roosevelt, pass through Tampa.

1892 St. Petersburg population at 300.

1899 R.E. Olds sets up Detroit's first automobile company.

1990 Everglades covers about 4 million acres.

1903 Oldsmobile produces one fourth of all the cars made in America.

1904 R.E. Olds left the Olds Motor Works to set up Reo Cars and Trucks.

1905 Florida passes law to drain Everglades.

1911 Drainage of Everglades begins.

1912 Pinellas County separates from Hillsborough County.

1912 Flagler's railroad reaches Key West.

1914 Henry D. Plant's railroad through Central Florida and Gulf Coast to St. Petersburg completed.

" First regularly scheduled commercial passenger flight in the country begins operation between Tampa and St. Petersburg with a hydroplane.

1916 Olds purchases 37,541 acres on Tampa Bay from Richard Peters.

" Olds establishes REO Farms Company (named changed to Reolds Farm Company) Construction starts on Oldsmar streets and sidewalks.

1917 Olds offeres Florida land and 10,000 acres of timber to President Wilson to build warships and was turned down.

" United States enters World War I.

" Elementary School begins operation with 11 students. Classes held in Negro Church and Methodist Parsonage for 5 years until schoolhouse built in 1921.

" First Post Office in Oldsmar begins operation. Mail delivered from Tampa by train until 1966.

1918 Major Oldsmar land promotion begins.

" Oldsmar State Bank completed.

" Methodist Episcopal Community Church of Oldsmar holds first services in unfinished bungalow and then in the Bank Building.

" First plat map filed.

1919 Woman's Club forms and starts Oldsmar library.

" Florida depression caused by WWI and Florida's lack of resources to aid war effort.

192[?] Tick eradication program begins in Florida.

1920 Reolds Farm Co. starts repossessing property. Residents start leaving Oldsmar.

" St. Petersburg Population at 14,000.

" Invention of airboats.

1921 Hurricane hits Oldsmar.

" Oldsmar Elementary school constructed.

" The Wayside Inn constructed.

1921 Infamous Oldsmar oil well started.

1922 First Florida broadcasting license issued to WDAE Tampa.

1923 Oldsmar Population estimates vary between 80 and 200.

" Olds realizes Oldsmar not growing as anticipated and liquidates assets.

1923 Florida land boom. Prettyman, a St. Louis promoter takes over selling Oldsmar property.

1924 Gandy Bridge completed.

1925 Florida Land boom ends and prices collapse.

" Oldsmar's Spanish style Methodist Church built.

1926 Tampa Jockey Club builds a modern racetrack outside Oldsmar.

" Beginning of Florida Depression.

" Olds Sells Oldsmar Tractor Company.

1927 Prettyman caught selling underwater lots in Oldsmar.

" Downtown Olsmar becomes a trailer park. Many homes moved by barge to St. Petersburg.

"	Town name changed to Tampa Shores and chartered.
"	First Marshal elected in Oldsmar.
1928	Elementary school closes for lack of students.
1929	Great Depression hits United States.
"	Mediterranean Fruit Fly invades Florida and citrus crop reduced by 60%.
1930-50	Public buildings in Florida air conditioned.
193[?]	Legalization of racetrack gambling.
1933	Civilian Conservation Corps start work on state park system.
1934	Courtney Campbell Parkway completed.
1935	Last of homes owned by R. E. Olds are sold.
1936	The Yearling by Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings wins Pulitzer Prize and brings Florida folklife to national attention.
1937	Tampa Shores changed back to Oldsmar.
"	Oldsmar Civic Club formed.
1941-45	World War II. Florida becomes a training center for military.
1943	Oldsmar Elementary School reopens.
1945	Tampa Bay Downs opens.
1946	Wayfarer Hotel burns to the ground.
1946	Phillippe Park opens.
195[?]	Sponge fishing industry gone from Tarpon Springs.

1954 Oldsmar Lions Club formed.

1955 Florida Legislature authorizes a turnpike to go full length of state.

" First Oldsmar Chamber of Commerce formed.

1957 New Methodist Church completed.

196[?] Beginning of Pinellas County building boom.

1960 Florida population 4,951,560 (10th in nation).

1962 First Oldsmar Days celebration.

1966 Plans for Walt Disney World in Orlando announced.

1968 New State Constitution.

1972 Harbor Palms developmet started.

1973 Florida's all time record: 25,500,000 visitors.

" East Lake Woodlands development started.

1975 Modern wastewater treatment plant completed.

1975 Oldsmar Police Department abolished and services of Pinellas County Sheriff's Department contracted.

1977 Oldsmar Library donated to city and is moved from Woman's Club building to State Street in City Hall Annex.

" Friends of the Oldsmar Library formed.

1977 Top of the Bay Garden Club formed.

1978 Gull Aire Village development started.

1979 Bayside Meadows development started.

1981 Original frame schoolhouse, built in 1921, is torn down.

" Oldsmar changed from a Mayor-Council to City Manager government.

" New fire house constructed in Oldsmar.

1982 Cypress Lakes development started.

1984 Sunshine Skyway Bridge begins construction.

1987 Estimated population of Florida 4th in nation. Expected to be 3rd largest state in population by year 2000.

1991 Oldsmar Bank building renovated for the library.

1992 Pinellas County bought nearly 1,700 acres in northern Oldsmar for Brooker Creek Wildlife Preserve.

1993 St. Petersburg Junior College opens Oldsmar campus at Canal Park.

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* Available at the Oldsmar Library

This Document was published by the Friends of the Oldsmar Library. It was compiled by Paula Geist, Adult Services Librarian, with the assistance of Hilary Wagner and Kathy Benz, Oldsmar Library Reference Staff, Nancy Mellican, Director Oldsmar Library, Ann Lieberman, Marsha Cornelius, Kim Copenhaver, Robert Geiszler, and Amy Skepper.

Orange County Library System

Written January 20, 1998

In the early 1900's the Sorosis' members in Orlando supported a private circulating library. Citizens were interested in a tax -supported free public library for Orlando and a lot was secured on the corner of Central Blvd. and Rosalind Avenue for construction. In 1920 Charles Albertson offered his genealogy collection to the city on the condition the city would furnish a suitable building to house the collection. The Citizens passed a bond issue for a new building of 11,000 sq. ft. In 1923 Olive Brumbaugh was employed as head librarian (director) of the Albertson Public Library. There were 21,000 books in the collection.

In 1929 the Library was designated as the State Depository for the Florida Chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1943 Clara Wendel succeeded Olive Brumbaugh as director of the Albertson Public Library.

The Friends of the Library was organized in 1949. This organization has raised funds through used book sales which have provided money for equipment, support for staff development, and programs for the public.

In 1949 Orange County was the first county in Florida to provide county-wide service through bookmobiles. This service was discontinued in 1979.

In 1962 construction of a new building was approved by Orlando freeholders in a bond issue election. Architect John M. Johansen of New Canaan, Connecticut was selected to design the building. The contractor was H. L. Coble Construction Co. The library, renamed the Orlando Public Library, was opened in 1966.

Clara Wendel retired in 1970 and Glenn Miller became the library's third director. In 1973 the library celebrated its 50th anniversary. Books by Mail began in December, 1973, and it is one of the most popular services offered to the public.

On September 9, 1980 voters approved the creation of the Orange County Library District for Orange County with the exception of Winter Park and Maitland. The voters also approved a $22,000,000 bond issue for the expansion of the Orlando Public Library. Schweizer Associates, Inc., was selected as the architect and Great Southwest Corporation was awarded the contract for the construction of expansion and renovation of the Main Library. On April 6, 1985, the expanded and renovated Main Library was open to the public. The library now houses the Law Collection which was moved from the Court House in 1986.

Telephone reference was established in 1994 and last year Quest line answered an average of 10,000 questions a month. In 1995 Glenn Miller retired and Dorothy Field became the fourth Director of the System.

In 1996 public access computers with Internet and card catalog were installed in reference departments at Main and all branches. The next year a contract was signed with DRA for an Automated Integrated Circulation System. Patrons can access their account through the Internet, from home or library, check on status of books and renew books checked out on their account. Phone renewal is available to patrons. Patrons borrowed over 4.6 million items and the MAYL (Materials Access from Your Library) delivered over 311,500 items to patrons' homes.

Three new branch libraries will be constructed in the next four years, either as replacements for leased facilities or to serve the growing area. Other facilities are planned which will bring the total branches to 13. There are currently 11 branches. At the same time the

Children's room of the Main Library will be moved to a prominent place on the first floor and will be redecorated.

The Library will be celebrating its 75th anniversary this year and will continue to focus on quality library services that bring traditionally reliable and technically advanced resources to all of our patrons.

Osceola County Library System

1910 Hart Memorial Library Building Erected at 400 Mabbette Street, Kissimmee. Women's Club of St. Cloud formed.

1914 Hart Memorial Chapter of the American Women's League chartered.

1916 Library deeded by City of Kissimmee to Hart Memorial Chapter and officially named "Hart Memorial Library".

1923 Veterans Memorial Library at 1012 Massachusetts Avenue, St. Cloud dedicated by Women's Club of St Cloud.

1956 City of Kissimmee increases stipend for Hart Memorial Librarian from $20 to $50 per month.

1968 State Librarian issues report on "Library Service in Osceola County." Osceola County Board of County Commissioners agree to assume responsibility for libraries, paid for through County's General Fund. Cities of Kissimmee and St. Cloud to provide buildings. Operated by Contract with Orlando Public Library (Orange County Library District).

1969 Hart Memorial Library moved to former Rexall Drug Store at 305 Broadway Avenue and renamed Kissimmee Library.

1972-1974 Veterans Memorial Library moved to former Bank Building at New York Avenue and 10th Street in St. Cloud.

1978 Voters pass Referendum authorizing a Countywide Library Tax up to 0.5 Mils.

1979 Countywide Osceola Library District established.

1986 City of Kissimmee voters approve bond issue to acquire lakefront property, including portion for future library site. H.B. Waters, Inc, Dallas, Texas submits Osceola County Library Master Plan County Commission raises Library Tax to full 0.5 mile from former 0.19 mils.

1987 Landstar, the developer of Buenaventura Lakes (BVL), donates a 2 Acre Site at 405 BVL Boulevard for future library site. Avatar, the developer of Poinciana, signs a ground lease agreement with the County to provide a library site at 33 Doverplum Center.

1988 Rogers, Lovelock Architects, Winter Park, provide Proto-Type Library Design for up to three new Osceola County Library Buildings. October 21st: New Poinciana Community Library Porta-Structure grand opening.

1989 January 3rd: Osceola County's first Library Department Director, Hester O'Leary starts work. March 7: City of Kissimmee donates 2 acres of planned Mickler Site acquisition for new library. Final settlement on Mickler Site August 1st. April 1: Osceola County* Library District and Department begin independent operations. Contract for Orange County Library District to operate Osceola County Libraries ends.

1990 January: Grand Opening of New Buenaventura Lakes Community Library. Opening of Jail Outreach Library Program.

1991 Opening of McClaren Circle Urban Outreach Children's Library.

1994 January: Grand Opening of Osceola County 's Hart Memorial Central Library.

1995 April: Grand Opening of Nell' St. Cloud Veterans Memorial Community Library. April: Book Collection donated for Hopkins Park Community Center Urban Outreach Program.

1998 Projected Opening of New Poinciana Community Library.

Palm Beach County Library System

(Member, Library Cooperative of the Palm Beaches, Inc.)

BY INGRID A. ECKLER, 1986

FOREWORD

The Palm Beach County Public Library System came into existence on October 1, 1967, which makes it a very new library. In this short span of time, the library, has enjoyed a quite interesting history. Many people have felt this should be recorded for the benefit of recent arrivals in our area, particularly those who will be involved in the future development of the library system.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The person I most wish to thank is my husband William for his constant support throughout the years that I have worked as a member of the Library Study Committee, the Library Advisory Board, and concurrently, as the President of the Friends of the Library. There have been many times that this activity has meant a great investment of time and energy. For some time now I have been trying to compile this history of the Palm Beach County Public Library System and again his patience has been very much appreciated.

I also wish to acknowledge the assistance of Kathleen K. Perinoff, Assistant Director of the Library, in searching out some of the information which was needed. Mary Ernst, a member of the Library Advisory Board, and Mrs. Perinoff have been tremendously helpful in assisting with the editing of this history. I also want to thank Kay Dodd and Dorothy Masters for their patience with me and the wonderful job they have done in completing the typing of the final draft.

It is a pleasure and a privilege as well as a responsibility to serve as a member of the Library Advisory Board. To each of those County Commissioners, George V. Warren, W. H. "Bill" Medlen, Norman Gregory, and Dorothy H. Wilken, who appointed me, I say "thank you."

Ingrid A. Eckler December, 1986

HOW IT ALL BEGAN

Prior to 1965, there had been at least two requests made to the Board of County Commissioners by concerned citizens to undertake an improvement of library service in the county, neither of which was successful. In the spring of 1965, the League of Women Voters of the West Palm Beach area appeared before the Board of County Commissioners with the suggestion that the Commission take steps to provide library service for the one-third of the population of the county which was unserved. The outcome of this suggestion was a public hearing in the lecture room of the West Palm Beach Public Library in June, 1965. At this meeting, which was attended by approximately 200 people, a presentation was made and differing opinions expressed. The result was action by the Board of County Commissioners to appoint a fifteen (15) member committee, three (3) to be appointed by each commissioner from his/her district, to study the matter.

By early November, all appointments had been made and a meeting was called for November 23, 1965 in Room 174 of the courthouse in West Palm Beach. Thirteen (13) of the appointees were present. Mr. Lake Lytal, Chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, charged the members to determine if the county should provide library service, and if so, how should it be administered and financed. He then called for nominations for office of Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. Results of the secret ballot showed Ingrid A. Eckler, Delray Beach, elected Chairman; Herbert L. Gildan, North Palm Beach, Vice Chairman; and Reine Rush,

West Palm Beach, Secretary. Other members appointed to the study committee were: Mrs. A.J. VanBerkum, Marie T. Shannon, Kenneth Nolan, and Charles Munnings, West Palm Beach; Elsie Leviton, Palm Beach; Bobbi Taffel, Palm Springs; Mrs. Leslie G. Thompson, Lake Worth; Paul Speicher, Delray Beach; William F. Mitchell, Boca Raton; Mildred Larrick, Lake Harbor; Mrs. F.H. Poteete, Pahokee; and Larry Royal, Belle Glade.

In January, 1966, Mr. Mitchell resigned. In April, John T. Opel, Boca Raton, was appointed to fill this vacancy. In February, Mrs. VanBerkham died and in April, Mrs. Marion Nye, Riviera Beach, was appointed.

At the initial meeting on November 23, 1965, it was decided to investigate the services available in the county, to contact the State Library for any assistance they could give, and to set meeting dates on the third Wednesday of each month, starting in January, 1966, with meetings to be held at the various municipal libraries in the county. Meetings were held in the West Palm Beach, North Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Belle Glade, Lake Worth, Riviera Beach, Boynton Beach, and Boca Raton Public Libraries. Meeting at each of these locations gave committee members a good idea of the facilities available in the county and was part of the self-education program upon which the members had embarked. In many instances, the head librarian, some staff members, and some, if not all, the members of the local library board attended the meetings.

This gave them some idea of the magnitude of the task before the committee and gave assurance that problems were being considered from every viewpoint. Serving on the committee were people with various degrees of experience, ideas and expectations relating to libraries, and also representing every shade of political thinking.

A consultant from the Florida State Library, Elizabeth Cole, was assigned to work with the committee. A survey of library service in the county was conducted under her direction. Information was gathered from several Florida counties which had established county library service, a relatively new concept at that time. The head librarians from West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, and Riviera Beach Public Libraries, all professionals, acted as professional advisors to the committee.

Very early in the deliberations, it was determined that there was a great need for improved and expanded library service in the county. It was also decided that there should be no dual taxation. As of January 1, 1967, there were fourteen (14) municipal libraries serving 217,100 people, leaving 107,000 with no library service. In fiscal 1966/67, there was a total of $329,971 of tax funds budgeted by those municipalities for library service.

On February 7, 1967, the committee made a presentation to the Board of County Commissioners detailing its recommendations as follows:

"A county library system should be established with a federation of the existing municipal libraries as the foundation; supplemented by county funds with contractual arrangements between the respective official bodies and the Board of County Commissioners. The county funds would come from an ad valorem tax on the unincorporated area plus those incorporated municipalities not now supporting libraries with tax monies.

"For a library to become a part of the federation, it must spend a minimum of $1.00 per capita or .25 mills per annum for library operation and be open a minimum of thirty (30) hours per week.

"As a member of the federation, the library will provide free library service and free use of its library facilities to all county residents living in the unincorporated area, the incorporated municipalities not now having libraries and those municipalities whose libraries joined the system. The local library will be completely autonomous insofar as its rules and regulations, selection of books, personnel, etc.

"In return for service to those outside its community, the county will pay to the municipal library a sum equal to 15% of the monies spent the previous year on library operation. The library will also benefit from the additional services such as professional help, central purchasing and processing, central catalogue, and the avoidance of much duplication. Such a system would also make possible the acquisition of materials which cannot now be purchased by an individual library due to cost and/or limited demand.

"To serve those residents who are rather far removed from any existing library, we propose book stations in shopping centers as a start. We are n proposing a county library but rather a county library service."

A bill to be presented to the legislative delegation creating a special taxing district for library service was discussed. Also recommended was a Library Advisory Board of fifteen (15) members appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, serving overlapping, three-year terms. This bill was passed in the Florida Legislature in the 1967 session. See Schedule A for a summary library legislation.

At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, members of the study committee made contacts as follows to present the library plan. The chairmen of the committee and at least one other committee member attended each these meetings:

April 12	West Palm Beach Library Board
April 27	Lake Park, North Palm Beach, and Riviera Beach Library Boards, jointly
May 10	Delray Beach Library Board
May 18	Village of Palm Springs Library Board
May 24	Boynton Beach Library Board
May 25	West Palm Beach Library Board
June 05	Greenacres City Library Board
June 05	Village of Palm Springs Commission
June 08	Members of study committee met with a group of citizens in Lantana
June 14	West Palm Beach City Commission workshop
June 16	Boynton Beach City Manager
June 19	Boynton Beach City Commission workshop
June 21	Lake Worth Library Board and City Council, jointly
July 05	Boca Raton Library Board and City Council, jointly
July 10	Boynton Beach City Commission workshop followed by a regular commission meeting

July 24	Belle Glade Library Board and City Manager and Pahokee City Commission, jointly
Aug. 28	Belle Glade City Commission
Sept. 26	Pahokee Library Board

On September 19, 1967, a report from the committee was presented to the members of the Board of County Commissioners. As noted on the previous page, the special act creating the special taxing district had passed the legislature. The libraries in North Palm Beach, Lake Park, Riviera Beach, West Palm Beach, Delray Beach, Boca Raton, and Belle Glade all met the minimum standards and agreed to contract with the county.

It was also reported that Boynton Beach and Lake Worth both chose not to join at this time. The other libraries in the county were ineligible because of insufficient monies spent, too few hours open, or not offering free service. In the discussions with the various library boards and city commissions, two matters seemed to be paramount: (1) that libraries should remain autonomous and (2) no dual taxation should be imposed.

The committee recommended that the Board of County Commissioners "take the necessary action to establish a Palm Beach County Library System effective October 1, 1967 with the federation of the previously-named libraries as its foundation. It is our further recommendation that you fund this system with $200,000 to be raised by a tax upon all properties in the unincorporated area of the county plus those municipalities not now paying a library tax."

The County Attorney, who had been working with the committee, the County Administrator, and the County Comptroller were present at this meeting. Following submission of the report, a special meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was convened immediately and the report of the committee was accepted. Action was taken to hold a public hearing on September 29, 1967, for the purpose of establishing this library taxing district.

On September 29, 1967, at 10:00 a.m., a public hearing was held in the courthouse in West Palm Beach. A resolution "for the establishment, maintenance, and operation of a free library service in Palm Beach County" was adopted.

THE FIRST YEAR

OCTOBER 1, 1967, THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30,1968

As provided in the resolution which was passed by the Board of County Commissioners on September 29, 1967, the Palm Beach County Library Special Taxing District came into being on October 1, 1967. On October 4, 1967 the chairman of the Board of County Commissioners wrote each of the Library Study Committee members thanking them for a job well done and advising of their appointment for one-year to the first Library Advisory Board. By October 10, 1967, six of the members had declined the appointment. Those who accepted were: Ingrid A. Eckler, Elsie Leviton, Marion Nye, Mami T. Shannon, Paul A. Speicher, Bobbi Taffel, Herbert L. Gildan, and John Opel. New appointees were: Mrs. Jerry Guffey, Mrs. R.S. Douthit, Homer Hand, Mary Orsenigo, and Robert Stevens. This left one vacancy. See Schedule B for a roster of board members and a summary of their duties.

An organizational meeting of the Library Advisory Board was held on November 15, 1967, at the West Palm Beach Library. Twelve of the members were present together with the three municipal librarians: Zella Adams from West Palm Beach; Caroline Wolf from Delray

Beach; and Charles E. Huber from Riviera Beach who were acting as professional advisors to the board. Officers were elected. Regular meetings were set for the third Wednesday of each month. Committees were appointed to draw up a contract to be entered into by the cities participating in the cooperative, to search for a director, to seek suitable space, and to prepare a budget.

In early November, 1967, letters were written to all municipalities in the county advising them that a special taxing district to support a county library system had been established on September 29, 1967. They were advised that if they already contribute tax money to support a library, their properties would be exempt from this library tax. A contract was prepared, approved by the county attorney's office, and the Board of County Commissioners.

The minimum standards for a municipal library to become a part of the cooperative system were that the library should be free, open thirty (30) hours per week, and must spend .25 mills or $1.00 per capita, whichever was smaller, on library service. In return for a library opening its doors to those county residents eligible to use it without charge, the Library Taxing District would pay 15% of the amount the municipality spent the preceding year on the operation of its library. This amount was not to be paid on any capital improvements. All those who lived in the cities and the unincorporated area which comprised the Library Taxing District, were eligible to use any of the seven (7) cities whose libraries chose to join the cooperative. Those who lived in the cities and the unincorporated area which comprised the Library Taxing District, were eligible to use any of the seven (7) libraries free of charge. By the deadline of May 15, 1968, contracts had been signed by Belle Glade, Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Lake Park, North Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach. There were two (2) libraries in the county which were eligible to join but which chose not to. They were Boynton Beach and Lake Worth.

The municipalities which supported libraries which were not eligible to join were: Briny Breezes, Greenacres City, Lantana, Pahokee, Palm Beach, Palm Springs, Ocean Ridge, and Royal Palm Beach. The municipalities which made up the taxing district, along with the unincorporated area were: Atlantis, Cloud Lake, Glen Ridge, Golfview, Gulfstream, Haverhill, Highland Beach, Hypoluxo, Juno Beach, Jupiter, Jupiter Inlet Colony, Lake Clarke Shores, Manalapan, Mangonia Park, Palm Beach Gardens, Palm Beach Shores, South Bay, South Palm Beach, the Village of Golf, and Tequesta.

Ads had been placed in several library journals nationwide seeking applications for the position of director. Eighteen (18) applications were received and reviewed. Those deemed not qualified for the position were eliminated. Two Florida applicants were interviewed on Saturday, July 20, 1968, at the West Palm Beach Public Library. Miss Zella Adams and Mr. H. William Axford, Florida Atlantic University Library Director, were professional consultants to the Board for these interviews. Miss Florence Biller of Tallahassee, Florida, was offered the position and accepted effective December 1, 1968.

The special committee which had been appointed to look for suitable space explored every possible lead. It was decided that no commitment would be made until the director arrived, but that as much information as possible would be gathered.

The budget committee worked with the county finance office in order to present a budget by June 1, 1968. This was a real learning experience since none of the committee had ever worked on a county budget or was familiar with state budget laws. The budget was prepared, submitted on time, and passed by the Board of County Commissioners. This first budget was for a total of $207,58 1, or a tax of .221 mills. See Schedule C for budget, tax, and millage growth.

In June, the Florida State Library advised that Palm Beach County would be eligible for $15,000 to $20,000 of State Aid. The request had to be submitted by September 30, 1968. In August, forms were received for application for a Development Grant for $55,000 from the Florida State Library which had to be signed by the Board of County Commissioners and returned to Tallahassee by October 1, 1968. These applications were submitted. As a result, State Aid and the Development Grant were awarded in the spring of 1969.

Publicity was prepared to announce the fact that those living in the Library Taxing District could use the seven (7) libraries which had contracted with the District as of October 1, 1968. Residency maps were prepared for the libraries to use when registering new patrons.

Early in this first year it was evident that bylaws were needed. These were prepared and adopted after much research and discussion. See Schedule D.

At the September meeting, members decided that numbers would be drawn within districts in order to establish the rotation of the board. At the request of the Board of County Commissioners, this was done at the October meeting. Plans were made for letters to be sent to the seven (7) member libraries, to the libraries not in the system, to mayors, city managers, library board chairmen, and others, about the start of library service. A press release was prepared to be sent to all county newspapers on September 23, 1968. Plans were made for a reception to welcome the first director of the Palm Beach County Public Library System on December 5, 1968, in the lecture room of the West Palm Beach Public Library.

It was a very busy year, full of accomplishment. The recommendation for library service, which was made to the Board of County Commissioners by the Library Study Committee in February, 1967, was about to become a reality.

OPERATING AND EXPANDING SERVICE ESTABLISHED

Even though the plan for library service to those who lived in the Library Taxing District was somewhat complex, it began rather smoothly on October 1, 1968. The Library Advisory Board met in October, at which time final plans were made for the reception for the Library Director to introduce her to the community. Officers were elected and numbers drawn to determine rotation of members on the board. At the November meeting, the municipal librarians who had acted as consultants to the Library Advisory Board were thanked for their assistance and good counsel.

On December 18, 1968, the Library Advisory Board met in the Board Room of the West Palm Beach Public Library with the Library Director, Florence E. Biller, in attendance for the first time. Ten resolutions, the first five having to do with the application for a development grant, were passed. These ten resolutions were:

1. The outline for the Library Development Grant to be submitted by the Board of County Commissioners.
2. A plan for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1968.
3. A book selection policy.
4. The adoption of a budget amendment to include the State Aid and Development Grant Funds.
5. A provision to participate in the Florida State Library film program.

6. Participation in the Processing Center operated by the Florida State Library.

7. The adoption of the travel policies of the Board of County Commissioners.

8. To delegate adequate authority for fiscal procedures.

9. To authorize the Library Director to select, approve, and recommend to the Board of County Commissioners the rental of headquarters for the County Library System.

10. To recommend a schedule of reclassification and new positions.

This procedure of adopting resolutions set the pattern for communicating with the Board of County Commissioners in a manner which would avoid misunderstandings. An announcement was made that space for the headquarters had been rented on a month-to-month basis in the Harvey Building, West Palm Beach, using borrowed desks and one typewriter. The library had a telephone! Now the director could begin assembling a staff and all the materials needed to establish a library.

In January 1969, the Library Advisory Board passed resolutions which recommended the rental of additional space in the Harvey Building for temporary use if necessary; recommended to the Board of County Commissioners that they secure Bldg. S-962 at the Palm Beach International Airport and have it renovated to serve as headquarters for the library; recommended the purchase of a bookmobile; and asked that the Board of County Commissioners enter into any necessary agreement with the Florida State Library for the purpose of obtaining individual or group loans of library materials.

One of the promises made by the Library Study Committee had been that library service would be made available in the Jupiter/Tequesta area as soon as possible. Interest was expressed very early by residents in that area and steps toward providing this service were begun at this meeting.

At the March meeting, representatives from four (4) management consultant firms were interviewed. Arthur D. Little Company was recommended for the project of submitting a five-year plan for library development in the Library Taxing District. The recommendations made in the final report were followed very closely for that period of time.

By the time of the April board meeting, the headquarters had been moved to Bldg. S-862 at the Palm Beach International Airport. The County Administrator and the members of the Board of County Commissioners were invited for a tour of the headquarters and a buffet supper. Four of the commissioners attended. At the meeting following supper, a non-resident fee of $10 was established. It was announced that the Arthur D. Little Company had already started to work within the system. The Library Advisory Board was advised of proposed general legislation which would endanger the status of the Palm Beach County Library Taxing District and lead to double taxation. It was decided to advise the County Legislative Delegation of the conflict and ask that the proposed legislation be modified or defeated. It was decided to recommend extension of the contracts with the cities for another year with the understanding that payments would be made once a year, if funds were available, instead of quarterly. An announcement was made that a contract had been awarded for the first bookmobile. And the bylaws were amended.

In May, recommendations made by the Arthur D. Little Company were incorporated into the proposed budget for the coming fiscal year. The library had been advised that the building being used for a headquarters would be available until March, 1972.

The Tri-Community Library Association, a group of citizens in the north county area, advised the Library Advisory Board that they were planning to rent space for a community library to be operated by the Palm Beach County Public Library System.

On September 25, 1969, a branch was opened in Tequesta. On September 30, 1969, the first bookmobile was dedicated. See Schedule E for information about continued expansion.

This first fiscal year of operation was very busy. Everyone was learning how to incorporate library service into the workings of county government. Among other things, there were many budget transfers, jobs were reclassified, state and national library legislation was followed very closely, a bookmobile was purchased, and the first branch was opened and the bylaws revised. The library system was taking shape.

SERVICE EXPANDS

The proposed library budget for 1969-70, had to be reduced because the aggregate county millage in one section of the county went over the 10 mills limit. In time, the hospital districts were exempt from the 10 mills limit. The library asked to be exempt but was unsuccessful.

In 1970, the first changes came about in the makeup of the Library Taxing District. Ocean Ridge came into the district; Gulfstream and Highland Beach withdrew. In 1971, Manalapan withdrew and Briny Breezes came in. Royal Palm Beach came into the district in 1975; and Greenacres City in 1983; and Belle Glade in 1986.

In 1970, the Library Advisory Board proposed legislation to establish a Building Reserve Fund but it was denied by the Legislature.

In that year, first steps were taken toward acquiring five (5) acres of land in Section 6, which is where the headquarters building is now located on Summit Boulevard. Since that land was part of the airport property used to secure the bonds for the expansion of the airport, there were some hurdles to surmount. At first, the land was to be leased but in order to use it as part of the matching funds needed to secure a federal grant for the building, it was determined necessary to purchase it. After taking out easements, approximately three (3) acres were purchased. The original building and the expansion in 1.977 were both built with funds from federal programs.

The lease on the branch in Tequesta had been in the name of the Tri-Community Library Association, Inc., and paid by them. It was decided that the Library Taxing District should assume the lease so that there would be no question as to responsibility for the branch. At this time, the decision was made to use geographical names for branches, insofar as possible, so that there would be no question about the fact that they are a part of the Palm Beach County Public Library System. For clarification, the name Palm Beach County Public Library System was adopted.

As a result of a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding on the part of the public when their tax bills were received, the Library Advisory Board requested the tax collector to modify the tax form so that the library tax would show separately as the municipal and school taxes do.

As the library grew, there was a need to establish criteria for the use of the buildings, use of the multi-purpose rooms, for mobile unit stops, and for the use of the film collection. With more and more branches, it became evident that a card catalogue was not satisfactory.

A contract with Science Press was entered into for a book catalogue which was updated periodically during the year. This was the first library in Florida to use a book catalog. Each branch and each cooperating library had copies. Computer Output Microfilm Catalogue (COM CAT) replaced the book catalogue in 1976. It is maintained by Science Press.

AUTOMATION

Interest in the use of automation for the handling of circulation began as early as 1973. On February 12, 1979, the first steps were taken toward acquiring a computerized circulation system. In April, 1979, a representative, Richard Boss of Information Systems Consultants, Boston, visited the library since they had been awarded the contract as consultants in this matter. In April, 1980, bids were opened and the award was given to Dataphase. The system was called ALIS which stands for Automated Library Information System. The total library collection was held in the database. ALIS gave the status of any book or any other item, reported its location within the System, and if it was available. When patrons checked out materials, it reflected if they had exceeded the limit in any particular category or if they had overdue books. ALIS generated the overdue notices. ALIS supplied statistical reports, including residency of patrons. ALIS was implemented throughout the library system for circulation in February, 1983.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

Insurance on valuable papers and records was a matter of concern which was resolved after considerable research and discussion. The matter of the library participating in Revenue Sharing Funds was brought to the attention of the Board of County Commissioners on a number of occasions without success. The payment of a fee to the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector was questioned on several occasions. Fines for overdue books and fees for other services, as well as the disposition of library materials, have been recurring topics of discussion. Censorship, possibly obscene material, and special interest material required careful attention and provision for handling. Confidentiality of library circulation records was first addressed in 1973. In 1981, a state statue providing for the confidentiality of these records became law. Long-range planning has been a part of the work of the library staff and board constantly. Such a plan is required when applying for state or federal funds and as a guide for development. On several occasions, the delay in authorizing the filling of positions which have been budgeted has been questioned. Legislation affecting libraries at both the state and national levels has been followed closely and acted upon as deemed necessary.

NON-RESIDENT FEE

This is a fee charged to those who are not eligible by virtue of being a taxpayer in the Library Taxing District or a constituent of one of the cooperating libraries. This fee was set it $10 per year in April, 1969, and raised to $15 in January, 1974. There has been discussion about special student rates but none were established. There was a six-month rate of $7.50.

GIFTS

Over the years, a number of gifts have been received by the library. Several came from users of the Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped to enhance that service and for large-print books. Special art books have been purchased with designated gifts. The largest gift to date was from the Audubon Society of the Everglades, Inc., in the amount of $10,000 to establish an ornithological collection.

BRANCH PLANNING

It was evident from the beginning that it would be necessary to establish branches throughout the Library Taxing District in order to properly serve the residents. After much study, guidelines for establishing branches were adopted at the April, 1974, board meeting and presented to the Board of County Commissioners on June 4, 1974. This plan has been revised and updated periodically. A Branch Development Committee was appointed on January 14, 1980. Considerable time was devoted to the need for permanent branches, their location, size, etc., as well as the manner in which the funds could be generated to carry out the capital improvement plan. Legislation was prepared to allow for a specific millage for a specific period of time. This bill did not get out of committee in the 1983 session of the Legislature. See Schedule A.

CONTRACTS WITH THE CITIES

As indicated previously, when the cooperative system began operating on October 1, 1968, there were seven (7) municipal libraries which had entered into a contract with the county to provide library service free to the residents of the Library Taxing District. The minimum criteria for a municipal library to contract were that it should be open free for at least thirty (30) hours per week and spend $1 per capita, or .25 mills, for library service, whichever was smaller. In return, the Library Taxing District agreed to reimburse the municipality 15% of its library operating expenditure for the previous year. The seven (7) contracting libraries were Belle Glade, Boca Raton, Delray Beach, Lake Park, North Palm Beach, Riviera Beach, and West Palm Beach.

On January 19, 1971, the Board of County Commissioners accepted the Library Advisory Board's proposal that the criteria be increased to require that a library be open forty (40) hours per week and expend $1.50 per capita, or .75 mills, of ad valorem taxes on library service. This was based on standards for participation in federal aid. On March 18, 1974, it was recommended and approved that the expenditure be increased to $2 per capita.

The Pahokee Library joined the cooperative in fiscal year 1970/71, and Boynton Beach in fiscal year 1971/72. The cooperative system continued to operate with nine (9) municipal libraries participating through fiscal year 1976/77.

During the hearing on the 1975/76 Library Taxing District budget, the payments to the municipalities were questioned by members of the Board of County Commissioners. As a result, an extensive study was made by a special committee of the Library Advisory Board which became a committee of the whole.

Representatives of the participating libraries, librarians, and library board members were invited to attend a training session on February 19, 1976, for a library user survey, as part of the re-evaluation of the cooperative system. Each municipal library director had been visited personally by the County Library Director and the concept of the study had been well-received. The survey was conducted the week of February 11, 1976, under the direction of the Orlando Public Library which had experience with such surveys. The User Survey Report was received in April.

In April, 1976, recommendations were made by the Library Advisory Board to the Board of County Commissioners. These recommendations were made in an effort to correct the difficulties experienced in administering the system as it had been set up; to respond to occasions

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In April, 1976, recommendations were made by the Library Advisory Board to the Board of County Commissioners. These recommendations were made in an effort to correct the difficulties experienced in administering the system as it had been set up; to respond to occasions in the past when the library budget had been cut while the monies paid to the cities had not; and to make use of the data gathered in the User Survey. The recommendations were as follows:

1. Member libraries would submit an application for participation.
2. Payment would be based on the previous year's expenditures as shown by an audit at the time of budget preparation.
3. Audits would be limited to salaries of library personnel (exclusive of maintenance personnel) and library materials.
4. Contracts would not become final until after the County Library's budget was approved.
5. Payment would be prorated if the County Library's budget were cut.
6. A maximum would be established for payment to the municipalities.

In August, 1976, the maximum, referred to above, was established at 18%. It was determined that the total payment of 18% of library personnel and materials of all contracting municipal libraries amounted to approximately the same as 15% of the total operating expenditures of these libraries.

The cities reacted unfavorably toward the change in the agreement. Instead of an "application" they wanted a "Letter of Intent" to which the Library Advisory Board agreed. The matter of the percentage and the basis of payment were in contention. The Library Advisory Board stood by its recommendations.

The Board of County Commissioners directed the Library Advisory Board and the members of the cooperative to work toward a joint recommendation for contractual agreement. In March of 1977, a workshop was held with the directors of the several cooperating libraries.

On June 27, 1977, a meeting was held at the Central Library, attended by the library directors, many library board members, and several city managers from the municipalities participating in the cooperative system. It was decided that the several library directors and not more than two (2) library board members from each library should meet to evaluate the situation and try to come to a common understanding.

Criticism of the Library Director, the proposed contracts, and the service provided by the Palm Beach County Public Library System began to appear in the media. The Library Advisory Board and Director decided to confine their expression of opinions to the joint meetings. At the September meeting of the Library Advisory Board, the Director was assured of the support of all of its members.

On September 20, 1977, a meeting was called of the librarians and representatives of the library boards of all participating libraries as agreed in June. A statement was read stating the position of the Library Advisory Board with regard to the criticism which had been leveled at them and the Director in the media. It outlined the relationship of the Director to the Library Advisory Board, the Library Advisory Board to the Board of County Commissioners; explained again the reason for the change in the contract, particularly setting the payment at 18%; expressed a desire to be considered a "sister" library and not looked upon as an adversary because of size. It was pointed out that municipal libraries had no more right to have a say in the Library Taxing District budget process or decisions than the Library Advisory Board had to enter into such discussions about their budgets. The statement also made clear that the Library Advisory Board saw no reason to distribute copies of its minutes to other libraries since the Library Taxing District was autonomous just as municipal libraries were. These points were made in response to particular criticisms which had been leveled at the County Library Advisory Board members and the Director.

On October 3, 1977, a "mini-system" was established, consisting of Belle Glade, Boca Raton, Boynton Beach, Pahokee, and Riviera Beach. Another meeting with the municipal library representatives was held on October 18, 1977, followed by a final meeting on November 15, at which time Lorraine Schaeffer of the Florida State Library was in attendance to explain the distribution of state and federal funds. At that time, a statement from the Library Advisory Board was distributed. It summarized the conclusions reached at the meetings as the Library Advisory Board understood them.

On October 11, 1977, the Board of County Commissioners instructed the County Administrator and his staff to analyze the library situation in light of the criticism which had been leveled at the county library in the media. On November 18, 1977, late Friday afternoon, the report became available and was presented to the Board of County Commissioners on Tuesday, November 22, 1977. The Library Advisory Board asked for time to respond to the report since there had not been time to study it. The Library Advisory Board also pointed out that though the County Administrator had been directed to consult with the library director and the Library Advisory Board, less than an hour had been spent with the director by a county staff member. None of the members of the Library Advisory Board were contacted at any time. Due to the holidays in November and December, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to hear the response of the Library Advisory Board on December 27, 1977.

On December 14, the following recommendations from the Library Advisory Board were transmitted to the Board of County Commissioners:

1. The long-term solution to the delivery of public library service in Palm Beach County, to be on an equitable basis, will require financial and administrative unification of all public libraries under the Board of County Commissioners.

2. The complete and separate autonomy of all public libraries, including the autonomy of the county Library Taxing District, should be fully recognized as the only means to peaceful coexistence among public libraries in a county with thirty-seven (37) municipalities.

3. That the Board of County Commissioners authorize the county Library Taxing District to submit an application to the Florida State Library for a Public Library Development Grant under the Federal Library Services and Construction Act for the purpose of retaining an outside consultant to study and advise on various options for governmental structure, equitable financing, administrative patterns, and equalization of service. This would assure countywide library development which would be compatible with the Florida State Statutes and administrative codes governing the allocation of State Aid for public libraries.

4. Beginning with Fiscal Year 1979, the county Library Taxing District established a working relationship with any municipal library, with mutual concerns, based on the sharing of resources through reciprocal borrowing with no payment of funds by the Library Taxing District.

5. A coordinating council of representatives of all interested public libraries be established as soon as possible for the consideration of common concerns and planning for countywide library development. Members of the Library Advisory Board and the library director were in attendance at the meeting of the Board of County Commissioners on December 27, 1977, for the purpose of presenting the response of the Library Advisory Board to the report submitted by the County Administrator. The report of the Library Advisory Board was never

heard. Instead, the director was summarily dismissed. The assistant director, Kathleen K. Perinoff, was immediately appointed acting director by the County Administrator.

The professional library at the county library headquarters is dedicated to Florence Biller, the first director of the county library. The plaque was paid for by contributions from members of the staff, the Library Advisory Board, and one (1) county commissioner.

On April 11, 1978, a seven (7) member Task Force was appointed by the Board of County Commissioners. It included a citizen from a cooperating municipality who had at one time been a member of the Library Advisory Board, a citizen from a municipality which had never joined the system; the Chairman of the Area Planning Board; a representative from county administration; a city manager from a municipality cooperating with the system; a city manager from a city in the taxing district; and a disinterested party with certain expertise in data processing.

The Planning Grant of $3,000 had been received. The first action of the Task Force was to select a consultant. They appointed Cecil Beach, Director of Libraries for Broward County. In July, Mr. Beach informed the Task Force that he would be unable to fulfill the assignment. Dr. Richard Waters, Dallas, Texas, was then approached and accepted. His report was received in March, 1979. A workshop was held by the Board of County Commissioners which was attended by librarians, library board members, and others interested in the matter. Dr. Waters' report advocated immediate consolidation of all library services in the county. The report was rejected by the Board of County Commissioners.

In April, most cooperating municipalities agreed to certain services being supplied by the county library system in addition to the 18% payment. In May, the library was informed by the state library that the amount paid to the cities in calculating its expenditures when applying for state aid would have to be deducted since there was no central control over these funds. As a result, the Library Advisory Board passed a resolution recommending that no monies be paid to the cities. In September, the Board of County Commissioners passed a resolution approving a reciprocal use program with no monies to be paid to the cities. As a result, no contracts were signed with any municipalities for the ensuing fiscal year. However, on October 9, 1979, the Board of County Commissioners reversed itself and passed a resolution which provided for some payment to cooperating municipalities in the FY 1979/80 county library budget.

THE SEARCH FOR A DIRECTOR

In April, 1979, after receipt of the Waters' report, the search for a permanent library director began. The qualifications as adopted the previous year were affirmed. They were:

1. A Masters Degree in Library Science from a Library School accredited by the American Library Association.
2. Five (5) years of progressively responsible public library administrative experience.
3. Considerable knowledge in all areas of library service: experience in planning, budget preparation, purchasing, personnel management, automation, and proven ability to utilize modern managerial practices.
4. The ability to represent the library to government officials and community groups.

Advertisements were placed in several national library journals with a deadline of June 15, 1979. By that date, fifty-two (52) applications had been received from librarians in seventeen (17) states. These were carefully screened and studied by a committee of the Library Advisory Board. Mr. Cecil Beach, Broward County Library Director and former Florida State Librarian, assisted in evaluating the applicants after the first eliminations were made. The County Administrator and his assistant who was the liaison to the library, also reviewed these eighteen (18) applications and agreed on the elimination of seven (7) more. After receiving the official county applications from these eleven (11) and further study, three (3) applicants were invited for personal interviews on August 18, 1979. At that time, the county personnel director and the Assistant County Administrator who was the liaison to the library, attended to assist in those matters which fell into areas of their particular expertise. Mr. Beach acted as a professional consultant to the Library Advisory Board. Immediately following the interviews, a special meeting of the Library Advisory Board was held and the unanimous decision was to recommend Jerry W. Brownlee to the Board of County Commissioners for the position of library director at an annual salary of $27,000. The Board of County Commissioners accepted this recommendation and Mr. Brownlee assumed this position on October 15, 1979.

A NEW START

One of the first actions of the new library director was to implement the resolution which provided for payment to municipalities. By the middle of January, 1980, the cities of Boynton Beach, Riviera Beach, Belle Glade, Pahokee, and Lake Park had agreed to participate. West Palm Beach was added the following year. The agreement provided for the taxing district library to purchase $35,000 worth of leased book services for the benefit of the municipalities participating and $40,000 worth of permanent library materials to be placed in the participating municipal libraries each year. A committee composed of the library directors of the participating libraries was charged with responsibility for the equitable distribution of the leased books and the library materials. The selection of materials for purchase or lease was to be done by staffs of the participating libraries. The cities agreed to register and serve all Library Taxing District residents and residents of all other participating libraries on the same basis and terms as residents of their own cities. The county agreed to register and service residents of the participating cities on the same basis and conditions as residents of the Library Taxing District.

The cities also agreed to maintain an accurate record of Library Taxing District residents who were registered with each city for use of its library. The county agreed to maintain an accurate record of city residents who were registered with the county library system for use of its services. The county library agreed to provide courier service to the cities at an appropriate level.

THE LIBRARY SYSTEM - 1984

As libraries go, the Palm Beach County Public Library System is still very new. Only 15 years have passed since public service first began in 1969 with a bookmobile schedule and the North County Branch.

The library system serves the unincorporated area of Palm Beach County and 22 cities. The population of this service area has grown at an even faster rate than that of the county as a whole. There are now 429,698 people living in the Library Taxing District or 57% of the population of the county.

Our efforts to meet the increasing demands placed on the library system by its growing public have spurred opening and enlarging of branches and creation of innovative services.

Today, the Palm Beach County Public Library System is made up of the Central Library Headquarters and nine branches: North County Branch, Jupiter Branch, Palm Beach Gardens

Branch, Okeechobee Boulevard Branch, West County Branch, Greenacres Branch, West Atlantic Avenue Branch, Southwest County Branch, and Belle Glade Branch.

The collection of the library system is extensive, including over 343,180 books. The library system subscribes to over 92 newspapers and 1,114 magazines.

Each of the nine library locations offers reference service to the public over the counter and over the phone. Readers' advisory services to help each patron select reading material is available at each of the library sites. Browsing collections of the latest fiction and large-print books are also offered at each site.

Each library location also includes a collection of children's materials and offers story hours and special programming for children.

Seven of our library sites have meeting rooms at which programs for adults are presented including films, lectures, workshops, and displays.

The Palm Beach County Public Library System also offers services to those who cannot use conventional library outlets or materials.

1. The bookmobile, whose importance has already been mentioned, now maintains a schedule of twelve (12) weekly stops.

2. Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped. This program mails books recorded on disc and cassette tape to patrons unable to use conventional print materials. This service is offered to all eligible county residents; 1,495 are currently enrolled.

3. Books-By-Mail mails paperback and large-print materials to readers who are unable to visit a library due to distance from a branch, handicap, or lack of transportation. The Central

Library offers materials unique in Palm Beach County. Over 800 16mm films and 200 videocassettes are available on loan.

The Central Library's reference department is the largest, providing back-up service to all library outlets. Toll-free telephone service is available to the Central Library from all parts of the County.

The Palm Beach County Public Library System's Literacy Project came into being in the 1985-86 fiscal year when a federal grant was received. This was part of the Literacy PLUS effort. This made it possible for the library to recruit tutors and students. Then the tutors were trained, students were assessed, and tutors were matched with students. It also made it possible for the library to develop a collection of materials for new adult readers. The library has staff trained to instruct tutors. There is a growing number of staff and volunteers working with students in this program.

The Historical Society of Palm Beach County was incorporated in 1937. It is involved in the discovery, collection, and preservation of materials pertaining to the history of Palm Beach County. It also promotes historical research and stimulates public interest in the history of Palm Beach County. It was formerly located in the Flagler Museum in Palm Beach and, as per an agreement dated September 9, 1986, moved to the board room of the Palm Beach County Public Library System Headquarters at 3650 Summit Boulevard, West Palm Beach.

The library system is now circulating materials at a rate of two million items per year. As the county population increases, the Palm Beach County Public Library System will continue to grow and bring fine library service to all residents of our service area.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

The idea of forming a Friends of the Library group was discussed on a number of occasions almost from the start. There were always so many challenges connected with the rapid growth of the library system that the formation of a Friends group was postponed until 1980.

In the meantime, information was gathered from various sources, including the American Library Association, so the Library Advisory Board members would be informed about such an organization and its purpose. In May, 1979, Gloria Glaser, who is an expert on Friends organizations and who was a speaker at the Florida Library Association's convention in Orlando, came to West Palm Beach to talk with several of the Library Advisory Board members. The decision was made to make the formation of the Friends group a top priority as soon as the new library director arrived.

Early in 1980, patrons of the library were asked to express their interest in the Friends by signing forms which asked if they would join and requested their names and addresses. On April 24, 1980, a meeting of eight interested patrons was held to explore the possibility of organizing. Temporary officers were selected: Ingrid A. Eckler, Delray Beach, Chairman; and Marguerite Handel, Boca Raton, Secretary.

Article 11 of the Friends of the Palm Beach Public Library Bylaws states:

"The purpose of this organization shall be to maintain an association of persons interested in books and libraries; to focus public attention on library services, facilities, and needs; and to stimulate gifts of books, magazines, desirable collections, endowments, and bequests." The

Friends work jointly with the Library Advisory Board and the library administration in support of the library and to educate the public as to its needs and activities.

In due course, bylaws were adopted and Articles of Incorporation as a nonprofit organization under the laws of the State of Florida were drawn and filed with the Secretary of State. The first officers were: Ingrid A. Eckler, President; Julian Kaye, Vice President; Marguerite Handel, Secretary; and Ruth Findling, Treasurer. Application was made requesting that the organization be recognized as a tax-deductible corporation by the Internal Revenue Service.

As of May, 1984, the organization had approximately 800 members. The Friends co-sponsored with the Library Advisory Board a luncheon for the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation. The Friends also co-sponsored the following workshops: Alternative Funding for Libraries in October, 1980; a Puppet Workshop in January, 1981; a Seminar of the Florida Library Association Friends and Trustees Caucus in November, 1981; and a meeting for Library Friends and Trustees from the libraries in south Florida in November, 1982.

The Friends sponsored six book reviews in two branches of the library. In March, 1983, they sponsored the first Meet the Authors Luncheon with Red Barber and Sloan Wilson participating. The second luncheon was held in March, 1984, with Richard Grayson and Robert Tolf participating, together with William Robertson, Book Editor of THE MIAMI HERALD, which co-sponsored the event.

Many gifts for the library have been made through the Friends, including display cases for the West Atlantic Avenue and Greenacres Branches; a bike rack for the West County Branch; large-print books for the Jupiter and West Atlantic Avenue Branches, to name just a few.

The Friends purchased three photocopiers for the use of the public and arranged for photocopiers to be placed in all branches for public use. The Friends also purchased an IBM computer to maintain its membership and to provide mailing labels for the monthly newsletter. This computer will be used by several departments in the library for many purposes, including maintenance of the film catalogue and necessary records for the Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped, and Books-By-Mail. The Friends also purchased video equipment, a Kroy-Type Machine to be used in the graphics department to produce posters, and a display case for the Central Library.

The Friends have also hosted a luncheon for the members of the Board of County Commissioners and at the dedications of the Okeechobee Boulevard, Southwest County, West County, Greenacres, and Jupiter Branches. The group also assisted in publicizing the library by underwriting costs for balloons for National Library Week, by underwriting the membership of the community relations librarian in the Palm Beach Ad Club, and by underwriting the costs of posters to publicize various events at the library. As of October 1, 1983, a Tribute Fund was established which makes it possible for patrons to honor, console, or cheer someone with a gift to the library. In April, 1984, this fund was expanded by establishing the Jerry Soulé Tribute Fund to promote and accept gifts to enhance the Service to the Blind and Physically Handicapped. In October, 1983, the first combined library calendar and Friends' newsletter was published.

The Friends are a growing organization which is proving a real asset to the library in many ways.

SCHEDULE A

LIBRARY LEGISLATION

A special act to establish the Palm Beach County Library Taxing District was passed by the Florida Legislature in its 1967 session to take effect on October 1, 1967. This act was amended in 1976, principally to clarify reference to the Library Advisory Board; the means by which the commission may provide for contractual library service; to vest title of the library in the special taxing district; to authorize the commission to receive gifts on behalf of the special taxing district; to clarify the means by which contractual library services may be provided; and to authorize the levy of taxes, charges or assessments in a municipal purpose unit for library services in lieu of taxation pursuant to this act. A copy of the act as amended is attached.

In 1970, SB 11, which would provide for a Capital Outlay Reserve Fund, was introduced into the Florida Senate. This bill did not get out of committee.

In January, 1978, a bill was prepared which provided:

"The Commission shall appoint a citizens' advisory board to make recommendations to them regarding the free public library service. The County Administrator shall select the head librarian, and make policy and budget decisions subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners."

The Library Advisory Board urged the Board of County Commissioners to withdraw this bill inasmuch as it removed two of the major functions of the Library Advisory Board. The Board of County Commissioners took action to remove this bill from its legislative package.

CHAPTER 76-460--LAWS OF FLORIDA

HOUSE BILL NO. 327

In 1983, a bill was filed to amend the special act in order to provide for a referendum to be called by the Board of County Commissioners to provide for Capital Improvement Funds. This would be a special levy not to exceed .5 mills for a period not to exceed five (5) years; the amount and time to be established by the Board of County Commissioners when calling for the referendum. The amount voted was to be assessed on all properties in the special taxing district. This bill did not get out of committee.

In 1986, a bill was filed to amend the special act in order to provide for a referendum to be called by the Board of County Commissioners to provide for Capital Improvement Funds. This would be a special levy not to exceed .5 mills for a period not to exceed two (2) years; the amount and time to be established by the Board of County Commissioners when calling for the referendum. The amount voted would be assessed on all properties in the special taxing district.

Prior to the bill being filed, but after having received the approval of the Board of County Commissioners, the library director, accompanied by one or more Library Advisory Board members, talked with every member of the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation about the importance of this legislation to the future growth of the library.

AN ACT relating to the Palm Beach County Free Public Library Taxing District, Palm Beach County; amending S. 11 of Chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, as amended, providing authority to the Board of County Commissioners of Palm Beach County to submit a special referendum to voters of the district for a levy of up to one-half mill for up to 2 years; the proceeds of which shall be used for library capital improvements; providing for any municipality entering the district after successful district referendum and successful municipal referendum to be taxed for that millage rate and number of years approved in the district referendum, beginning with the fiscal year it enters; providing that the value of any municipal library resources transferred to the district be deducted from the amount levied in the municipality; providing an effective date.

The bill passed the legislature on the last day of the session. The Board of County Commissioners placed the issue calling for.5 mills for two (2) years, on the ballot for November 4, 1986. There was a 70% voter turnout. The measure passed by a vote of 82,921 FOR and 41,757 AGAINST.

AN ACT relating to Palm Beach County; relating to the Palm Beach County Free Public Library Special Taxing District; amending section 1 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, to clarify intent to create a special taxing district and to state its relation to the Florida Administrative Procedure Act, chapter 120, Florida Statutes; amending section 4(1) thereof, to clarify reference to advisory library board; amending section 7 thereof, to clarify means by which the commission may provide for contractual library services; amending section 8 thereof, to vest title of library in the special taxing district; amending section 9 thereof, to authorize the commission to receive gifts on behalf of the special taxing district; amending section 10 thereof, to clarify means by which contractual library services may be provided and to authorize levy of taxes, charges, or assessments in a municipal purpose unit for library services in lieu of taxation pursuant to this act; amending section 11(l) and (2) thereof, to include reference to the special taxing district; and to include reference to the commission; repealing section 2(4) thereof, relating to the definition of "minimum library service"; providing an effective date.

Be it Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 1. Intent. It is the intent of this act to create a Palm Beach County Free Public Library Special Taxing District for which the governing body will be the The board of county commissioners of Palm Beach County is authorized to establish, operate and maintain for the purpose of establishing, operating, and maintaining a free public library or to provide providing for contractual library services for the benefit and use of the residents of Palm Beach County, who are taxed for such library or library service. This taxing district shall be subject to chapter 120, Florida Statutes, as it pertains to the Florida Administrative Procedure Act, when applicable.

Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 4 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 4. Advisory library board.

(1) The commission shall appoint a citizens' advisory board to represent them in administering the free public library service. The advisory board shall select the head librarian, and make policy and budget decisions subject to the approval of the board of county commissioners. The commission shall appoint the advisory board to consist of fifteen (15) citizens of the county, and establish qualifications and terms for membership. The advisory board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses.

Section 3. Section 7 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 7. Contractual library service. In carrying out the provisions of this chapter, the commission may either acquire and provide for the maintenance and operation of a free public library in for the county, or may provide free public library service to the citizens of the county by entering into a contract therefore with any municipality or municipalities, or both, in this county with any nonprofit library corporation or association in Palm Beach County owning a free public library, or with any other county or municipality in the state owning a free public library. Any municipality or any non-profit library corporation or association owning a free public library in Palm Beach County may enter into a contract with the county to receive the service of books and technical assistance from the county library upon such terms as may be agreed upon by the county and the governmental body of the library contracting therewith.

Section 4. Section 8 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 8. Title of library to be in county. special taxing district. The title and ownership of all land, buildings, facilities, equipment, and books constructed or acquired by or on behalf of the county free library shall be in the county special taxing district.

Section 5. Section 9 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 9. Gifts and bequests. The commission is authorized to receive on behalf of the county special taxing district any gift, bequest, or devise for the county free public library or for use in the county contractual library service. Any monies so received shall be deposited to the county library fund, to be used only for library purposes:

Section 6. Section 10 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 10. Taxation and contracts.

(1) When the commission shall have determined under the provisions of this chapter to establish, operate, and maintain a free library or provide contractual library services, said In order to establish and maintain a free library system or provide contractual library services, the commission shall pay levy an annual tax, in the same manner and at the same time as other county taxes are levied upon all taxable property within the county not already taxed for library

purposes by a municipality , or may levy taxes, charges or assessments within a municipal services taxing district created by ordinance for library purposes, and may thereafter enter into a contract with any municipality Palm Beach County to furnish free public library service upon terms to be agreed upon by the county and the governing, body of the library contracting therewith.

(2) Any municipality owning or operating a public library , or any non-profit library corporation or association in Palm Beach County owning a free public library, may enter into a contract with the county commission to furnish or receive any library service upon terms to be agreed upon by the commission on behalf of the county and the government of the municipality parties thereto, or any municipality without a free public library may enter into a contract with the commission to receive any library service upon terms to be agreed upon by county and the governing body of the municipality .

Section 7. Section 11 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is amended to read:

Section 11. County library fund.

(1) All funds of the county free library or contractual library service special taxing district, whether derived from taxation or otherwise, shall constitute a separate fund to be known as the county library fund, and shall be expended only for library purposes. The expenses incurred by the free library or library service shall be paid by warrants drawn by the commission, payable out of the county library fund. At the end of each fiscal year, all monies unexpended in the county library fund shall be appropriated as part of this fund for the subsequent fiscal year.

(2) The county commission shall not make expenditures or incur indebtedness in any year in excess of the amount available for library purposes, except in the form of bonds for library construction or land acquisition purposes.

Section 8. Subsection (4) of section 2 of chapter 67-1869, Laws of Florida, is hereby repealed.

Section 9. If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, or provision of this act is held invalid, the remainder of this act shall not be affected by such invalidity.

Section 10. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Became a law without the Governor's approval.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 25, 1976.

SCHEDULE B

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

The special act which permitted the establishment of the Library Taxing District provided that "the Commission shall appoint a citizens' advisory board to represent them in administering the free public library service. The advisory board shall select the head librarian, and make policy and budget decisions subject to the approval of the Board of County Commissioners. The Commission shall appoint the advisory board to consist of fifteen (15) citizens of the county, and establish qualifications and terms for membership. The advisory board shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed for actual expenses."

Upon passage of the county ordinance on September 29, 1967, which established the county Library Taxing District, the members of the Library Study Committee were appointed as the Library Advisory Board for a period of one year. There were six (6) members who declined to serve and those vacancies were filled.

As the Palm Beach County Public Library System grew and took form, it became apparent that there should not be appointees from municipalities whose libraries were ineligible to participate in the cooperative system, or who declined to participate, and any such members were not reappointed when their terms expired.

In November, 1977, the Library Advisory Board passed a resolution which was presented to the Board of County Commissioners requesting that in the future all appointees be residents of the Library Taxing District inasmuch as it was felt that the Library Advisory Board should be composed of those people who pay ad valorem taxes to support the library. The Board of County Commissioners passed a motion to this effect and also stated that appointments could be made "at large" rather than from a commissioner's residence district. The bylaws provide for terms of board members, the officers, their election, and term of office. Following are schedules by commission district giving the name, location, and period of service of Library Advisory Board members:

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD-- DISTRICT 1

Name/Address	Appointed	Expired

Herbert L. Gildan, North Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1978
Mrs. Jerry Guffey, North Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Dec. 1969
Mrs. Marion Nye, Riviera Beach	Oct. 1967	June, 1968
Mrs. N. E. Crabtree, Riviera Beach	Aug. 1968	Nov. 1968
Dr. Robert Bellows, Jupiter	Jan. 1969	Sept. 1969
Alfred Weeks, Jupiter	Feb. 1970	Aug, 1974
Mrs. Arlene Marcley	Jan. 1971	May 1971
Mrs. Dan Amrosio, Palm Beach Gardens	Jan. 1972	March 1972
Mary Ernst, Juno Beach	Nov. 1976	
Mary Jemmett, Riviera Beach	Nov. 1976	March 1977
Patricia C. Sharp, North Palm Beach	Apr. 1977	Sept. 1977
Phillip Corr, Tequesta	Dec. 1977	
Harry Gragg, Juno Beach	Jan. 1978	

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD -- DISTRICT 2

Name/Address	Appointed	Expired
Mamie T. Shannon, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1968
Reine Rush, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1973
Robert Stevens, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1973
Russell 0. Anderson, West Palm Beach	Nov. 1968	Oct. 1972
Fran Carlton, Lake Clarke Shores	Oct. 1973	May, 1975
Mildred Hurley, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1973	Feb. 1974
Frances Walker, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1973	Sept. 1977
Dorothy Brock/Kunze, West Palm Beach	Apr. 1974	Sept. 1977
Lois Fox, Lake Clarke Shores	May, 1975	July, 1978
Sam Caplan, West Palm Beach	Dec. 1977	Sept. 1978
Virginia Love, Lake Clarke Shores	Oct. 1977	Dec. 1978
Marian Farb, West Palm Beach	Oct. 1978	Nov. 1982
Paula Roth, Jupiter	Apr. 1979	Sept. 1980
Frances Warner, Lake Worth	Apr. 1979	Mar. 1983
Mark Wainer, West Palm Beach	Sept. 1980	

Ruth Lytal, Lake Clarke Shores	May, 1983	
Ike Metlay, Delray Beach	May, 1983	May 1986

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD – DISTRICT 3

Name/Address	Appointed	Expired
Elsie Leviton, Palm Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1971
Bobbi Taffel, Palm Springs	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1973
Mrs. Robert Pierce, Atlantis	Nov. 1968	Sept. 1969
Mrs. Shirley Kohl, Palm Springs	Sept. 1969	Oct. 1972
Jean Pipes, Boynton Beach	Oct. 1971	Sept. 1977

(1974-DISTRICT 4 DUE TO REDISTRICTING)

Mrs. Udell R. Squire, Lake Worth	Oct. 1973	Feb. 1974
Marie Mulhall, West Palm Beach	Aug. 1975	Sept. 1977
Gloria Anderson, Atlantis	Aug. 1975	May, 1981
Mark Foley, Lake Worth	Apr. 1977	Sept. 1977
Iola Bergen, West Palm Beach	Jan. 1978	Aug. 1982
Dr. Ronald Giddens, Lake Worth	Jan. 1978	

Julius Rosen, South Palm Beach	Oct. 1981	
Carolyn Gough, Atlantis	Sept. 1982	

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD – DISTRICT 4

Name/Address	Appointed	Expired
Ingrid A. Eckler, Delray Beach	Oct. 1967	
Paul Speicher, Delray Beach	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1974
John Opel, Boca Raton	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1968
Mrs. Robert West, Boca Raton	Oct. 1968	July 1969
Dr. Clarence Crawford, Boca Raton	Sept. 1969	Dec. 1970
John Howell, Boynton Beach	June 1971	Aug. 1971
Don Combs, Boynton Beach	Sept. 1971	July 1972
Walter Santini, Boynton Beach	Feb. 1976	Oct. 1976
Minnie Friedlander, Boca Raton	May 1977	Sept. 1985
Selma Guggenheim, Boca Raton	Oct. 1978	Dec. 1981
Jennifer Braaten, Boca Raton	Mar. 1981	Oct. 1984
Lucille Schrager	May 1985	
Lillian Krieger	Dec. 1985	Dec. 1986

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD - DISTRICT 5

Name/Address	Appointed	Expired
Homer Hand, Belle Glade	Oct. 1967	Oct. 1971
Mrs. H. S. Douthit, Pahokee	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1969
Mary Orsenigo, Belle Glade	Oct. 1967	Sept. 1973
Marian Bleech, Pahokee	Nov. 1971	Aug. 1974
T. W. Casselman, Belle Glade	Oct. 1971	Sept.1973
Dr. Tom Zitter, Belle Glade	Sept. 1973	Oct. 1977
Hunter Latham, Canal Point	Oct. 1974	June 1976
Susan Weaver, Lake Harbor	Oct. 1976	Oct. 1977
Dr. Paul Lyrene, Canal Point	Aug. 1976	May 1977
Paul Schrope, Belle Glade	Apr. 1978	Dec. 1979
Madeline Corscadden, Boynton Beach	Dec. 1977	Sept. 1980
Eloise Hooker, Belle Glade	Nov. 1978	
Andrea McElwee, Royal Palm Beach	Jan. 1981	Sept. 1985
Bonnie Harrelle, South Bay	Mar. 1981	Sept. 1984
Sylvia Shapiro, Royal Palm Beach	Dec. 1984	
Arle Adams, Wellington	Oct. 1985	

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD -- OFFICERS

Year	Chairman	Vice Chairman	Secretary
1967	Ingrid A. Eckler	Herbert Gildan	Reine Rush
1970	Herbert Gildan	Paul A. Speicher	Homer Hand
1971	Herbert Gildan	Paul A. Speicher	Mary Orsenigo
1972	Paul A. Speicher	Mary Orsenigo	Bobbi Taffel
1973	Paul A. Speicher	Ingrid A. Eckler	
1974	Jean Pipes	Dr. Tom Zitter	(Office dropped)
1976	Dorothy Brock	Russell Anderson	
1977	Ingrid A. Eckler	Mary Ernst	
1979	Dr. Ronald Giddens	Minnie Friedlander	
1981	Minnie Friedlander	Dr. Mark Wainer	
1982	Dr. Mark Wainer	Eloise Hooker	
1983	Dr. Mark Wainer	Eloise Hooker	
1984	Carolyn Gough	Ruth Lytal	
1985	Carolyn Gough	Ruth Lytal	
1986	Ruth Lytal	Julius Rosen	

SCHEDULE C

FINANCIAL - BUDGETS, TAXES, MILLAGE

YEAR	TOTAL ORIGINAL BUDGET	TOTAL AD VALOREM TAX PER ORIGINAL BUDGET	MILLAGE
1968/69	$ 207,581	$ 207,581	.221
1969/70	281,351	233,339	.243
1970/71	501,535	366,986	.366
1971/72	685,344	387,117	.305
1972/73	747,703	418,848	.330
1973/74	653,923	601,351	.387
1974/75	876,507	739,224	.334
1975/76	1,087,025	958,696	.397
1976/77	1,340,441	1,105,246	.402
1977/78	1,687,005	1,242,549	.3838
1978/79	1,757,019	1,345,006	.3717
1979/80	2,035,381	1,531,786	.3620
1980/81	2,581,260	2,042,952	.4008
1981/82	4,143,844	3,122,240	.3707
1982/83	4,133,121	3,397,622	.3261

1983/84	4,752,215	3,920,153	.3526
1984/85	4,861,073	4,406,420	.3525
1985/86	5,598,364	4,848,571	.3428
1986/87	6,996,028	6,335,267	.3951

SCHEDULE D

BY-LAWS

In order for any organization to properly function, it is necessary to have bylaws. A committee was appointed, using sample bylaws as a guide, and after discussion and changes, the first bylaws for the Library Advisory Board were adopted on June 19, 1968. Copies were sent to the members of the Board of County Commissioners and any changes have been forwarded to them.

These bylaws provided for the appointment, by the Board of County Commissioners, of fifteen (15) members; three (3) from each commission district, for three-year (3-year) overlapping terms, and that the board members appointed October 1, 1968, "shall determine, according to a mutually acceptable plan, the manner in which one member from each district will serve a one-year term, one a two-year term and the third, a three-year term. In future years, only one member from each district shall be appointed." The bylaws provided for the filling of vacancies.

The bylaws stated that "the board shall be responsible for the recommendation of the employment of a qualified library director, setting policy and budgeting and such other matters as should properly be their concern."

The officers were to be a chairman, vice chairman, and secretary. The board was to meet once-a-month, with the October meeting as the organizational meeting. There was provision for special meetings, and a quorum of five (5) members, with the provision that all official business at all times be approved by at least five (5) members.

There was a provision for the appointment of standing and special committees. There was also a statement as to the duties of the librarian and his/her relationship to the board, including the fact that "the librarian shall attend all board meetings except those at which his appointment, salary, or performance is to be discussed or decided." Lastly, there was a provision for amending the bylaws.

Revisions were made, as needed, from time to time to facilitate the work of the board, to clarify its function, or as a result of the growth of the system.

On April 16, 1969, the bylaws were amended. The duties of the Library Advisory Board were expanded to conform with what they were actually doing and to define their relationship to the Board of County Commissioners. The duties of the officers were stated more completely and the provision added that (no officer shall hold the same office for more than two (2) consecutive terms." The provision for standing committees was eliminated and a statement that all actions of any committee must be taken only by the Library Advisory Board as a whole. Also, the section entitled "Library Director" was expanded to more precisely delineate the relationship of the director to county administration and to the Library Advisory Board.

On March 18, 1974, the bylaws were again revised with the office of secretary being dropped and clerk to the board added. It was specified that the election should be by ballot if there should be more than one nomination for a position. It was provided that the board should schedule at least nine (9) meetings per year. Under the section dealing with the library director, the provision that the director not attend meetings at which his/her appointment, salary or performance were to be discussed or decided was eliminated and the provision added that he/ she "shall serve as clerk to the board, or appoint a staff member to serve as clerk, who shall record the minutes and send notice of the meetings to the board members."

On February 7, 1977, the bylaws were revised to include "a member of the Library Advisory Board having absences from three (3) consecutive regular meetings shall be notified of those absences by the clerk to the board. If regular attendance is not possible, a member should consider vacating the appointment."

On June 11, 1979, the first article of the by-laws was revised adding the word "Public" to the name of the system, deleting the phrase "area served by the system" and inserting "taxing district" in specifying residency of appointees. The sentence stipulating the manner in which rotation should be achieved was deleted and the sentence "one member shall be appointed each year by each commissioner" was added.

A copy of the by-laws as amended to date is included.

SCHEULE D BY-LAWS

PALM BEACH COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD

ARTICLE I - Membership

In accordance with the Resolution of the Board of County Commissioners, the Library Advisory Board of the Palm Beach County Library System shall consist of fifteen members, who reside in the Public Library Taxing District, and who are appointed by the Board of County Commissioners, three by each Commissioner, for three year overlapping terms. One member shall be appointed each year by each Commissioner. These appointments shall be made not later than October 1st of each year. In the case of a vacancy the member of the Board of County Commissioners from whose District the appointment was made shall fill the vacancy at the earliest possible time for the balance of the vacant term.

ARTICLE II - Duties

The Library Advisory Board shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Board of County Commissioners and shall by resolution provide written recommendations on such matters as require action by the Board of County Commissioners. It shall evaluate the County Library System in order to improve and expand library service throughout the County. The Library Advisory Board shall recommend the selection of the Library Director, such programs and policies as are deemed necessary for the orderly development of the County Library System, and budgetary requirements to finance the System program.

ARTICLE III - Officers

Section 1: Officers of the Board shall be a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, and there shall be a Clerk to the Board.

Section 2: The officers shall be elected at the organizational meeting for a term of one year. The election shall be by ballot if there is more than one nomination for a position. No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms. A vacancy in an office shall be filled for the balance of the vacant term at the next regular meeting of the Board after the vacancy occurs.

Section 3: The duties of the officers shall be as follows: (a) The Chairman shall preside at all meetings of the Board, appoint all Committees, and perform such additional duties as the Board may direct. He shall be an ex officio member of all committees. (b) The Vice-Chairman shall preside at Board meetings in the absence of the Chairman.

ARTICLE IV - meetings

Section 1: The Library Advisory Board shall schedule at least nine meetings per year at a time and place to be determined by the Board. The October meeting shall be the organizational meeting.

Section 2: Special meetings may be called by the Chairman, or upon written request of five members, for the transaction of business as stated in the call. Notice stating the time and place of any special meeting and the purpose for which called shall be given each member of the Board at least two days in advance of such meeting.

Section 3: A quorum for transaction of business shall consist of five members with the provision that all official business must at ALL times be approved by at least five members.

Section 4: A member of the Library Advisory Board having absences from three consecutive regular meetings shall be notified of these absences by the Clerk to the Board. If regular attendance is not possible, a member should consider vacating the appointment.

Section 5: ROBERT'S RULES-OF ORDER, last revised edition, shall govern the parliamentary procedure of the Board, except as herein provided.

ARTICLE V - Committees

Special committees for the study and investigation of special problems may b appointed by the Chairman, such committees to serve until the completion o the work for which they were appointed. All action required shall be taken only by the County Library Advisory Board as a whole sitting as an official body.

ARTICLE VI - Library Director

Section 1: The Library Director shall be appointed by the Board of County Commissioners upon the recommendation of the County Library Advisory Board. He shall report to the County Administrator and from an Administrative point of view shall be treated as a Department Head. In performing his duties relating to the proper administration of the County Library System, he shall function within the rules, regulations, and procedures established by the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 2: The County Library Director shall seek the counsel and advice of the County Library Advisory Board and shall carry out all policies and directives recommended by the

Library Advisory Board and approved and authorized by the Board of County Commissioners directly or through the County Administrator.

Section 3: The Library Director shall make regular reports to the Library Advisory Board on the condition of the County Library System's program and on the status of all recommendations made by the Advisory Board to the Board of County Commissioners.

Section 4: The Library Director shall be considered the executive officer of and professional advisor to the County Library Advisory Board, and as such may speak on any subject under discussion at Library Board meetings. He shall have sole charge of the administration of the County Library System within the framework of the means and methods set forth by the Board of County Commissioners with regard to the administration of the County Library, and shall be the liaison with the County Administrative Office for administrative purposes. He shall oversee the care of the building and equipment, and be responsible for the employment and direction of the staff, for the efficiency of the System's service, and for the operation of the Library program within the financial conditions set forth in the annual budget. He shall attend all library related meetings, including but not necessarily limited to all Advisory Board meetings and committee meetings. He shall serve as the Clerk to the Board. The Clerk shall record the minutes and send notices of the meetings to Board members.

Section 5: The Library Director shall prepare the Agenda in consultation with the Chairman of the Library Advisory Board and subject to the inclusions of any items that individual Board members request to be brought to the attention of the entire Board.

ARTICLE VII - Amendments

The by-laws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Library Advisory Board with an affirmative vote of a majority of the members of the Board, providing the members have been given notice at a previous meeting.

Adopted: February 7, 1977

Amended: June 11, 1979

SCHEDULE E

HEADQUARTERS AND SERVICE LOCATIONS

Date	Designation	Address	Size
1968	Director's Office	Harvey Bldg. #407 West Palm Beach	3 Room Suite
Apr. '69	Headquarters	Palm Beach International Airport S-862, West Palm Beach	
9-25-69	Tequesta Branch	365 Tequesta Drive Tequesta	1691 Sq. Ft.
9-30-69	Mobile Library #1	(In service until April, '77)	

11-12-72	Central Library	3650 Summit Blvd West Palm Beach	12,000 Sq. Ft.
6-1-74	Mobile Library #2		
May'75	Palm Beach Gardens Branch (moved to new location 11/77)	10800 N. Military Trail #225 Palm Beach Gardens	740 Sq. Ft
June'75	Mid-County Branch (moved 2/83, now Greenacres Branch)	7109 Lake Worth Road. Lake Worth	1,600 Sq. Ft
Aug. '75	Southwest County Branch (moved 12/81 to West Glades Road)	Sandalfoot Cove Boca Raton	1,459 Sq. Ft.
Nov. '76	Okeechobee Boulevard Branch (Enlarged 3/81)	5760 W. Okeechobee Blvd West Palm Beach.	1,430 Sq. Ft.
1977	Purchased an additional three (3) acres on Summit Boulevard		

Nov.'77	Palm Beach Gardens Branch	10887 N. Military Trai Palm Beach Gardens	2,240 Sq. Ft.
Jan.'78	Del-Trail Branch (Moved to West Atlantic Avenue 9/82)	14417 S. Military Trail Delray Beach	1,855 Sq. Ft
9-17-78	Central Library addition dedication		15,900 for a total of 27,900 Sq. Ft.
Mar.'81	Okeechobee Boulevard Branch	5760 W. Okeechobee Boulevard West Palm Beach	4,460 Sq. Ft.
Dec. '81	Southwest County Branch	8221 W. Glades Road Boca Raton	4,975 Sq. Ft
July '82	West County Branch	120 Camellia Park Drive. Royal Palm Beach	1,000 Sq. Ft.
Sep. '82	West Atlantic Avenue Branch	7777 W. Atlantic Avenue Delray Beach	1,000 Sq. Ft.
Feb. '83	Greenacres Branch	6135 Lake Worth Road Lake Worth	5,494 Sq. Ft.

Oct. '83	Jupiter Branch	1000 Town Hall Avenue Jupiter	1,950 Sq. Ft.
Jul. '85	Central Library addition - south		10,000 Sq. Ft.
May'86	Belle Glade Branch		9,100 Sq. Ft

Palm Harbor Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

By Dana S. Dockery, Independent Study Project, Spring, 1994

INTRODUCTION

The Palm Harbor Library in Pinellas County, Florida is unique in the state of Florida in that it is the first and only library to be funded by a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU). The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative is the only other library entity in the state that is also funded by a MSTU. "The MSTU is an instrument provided county governments to fund provision of municipal services, principally in unincorporated areas. Prior to 1991, MSTUs could not include municipalities. In 1991 the legislature amended F.S. 125 to allow the inclusion of municipalities in MSTUs. The MSTU is only a funding source and therefore lacks the secondary benefits provided by independent or dependent districts." (footnote 1). MSTUs are distinctly different from special taxing districts, but are often included in special taxing districts reviews at the state level. (See Appendix A.)

The Palm Harbor Library is also unique in that it has the largest number of volunteers in the state. Volunteer workers are the backbone of the library and continue the tradition of community involvement and dedication that were essential in the development of the library. The Palm Harbor library owes its existence to Mrs. Jeannette Malouf and the hundreds of volunteers who unselfishly donated the thousands of hours of service, books and materials that made it possible.

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EARLY HISTORY

The Palm Harbor Library exists today due to the vision of Mrs. Jeannette Malouf. Jeannette, who was the Vice President of the Palm Harbor Civic Club, suggested to its members in February of 1978 that a library was needed in Palm Harbor. Jeannette was a kindergarten teacher at the Ozona Elementary School and she was deeply concerned that the children had no library that was close to their homes to borrow books from. "The kids I taught were a big reason why I wanted the library. I'd work with them, helping them learn to read, and then it'd be the first of June. School was out and there was nothing for them in the community to help them stay interested in reading." (footnote 2). The Dunedin Library and Tarpon Springs Library were the closest libraries to Palm Harbor, but they were about a twenty minute drive. In addition to the distance, there was a fee that the Palm Harbor residents had to pay because they were not residents of these cities. Dunedin had also just raised its non-resident fees from $5.00 a year to $15.00 a year. A free public library for Palm Harbor was definitely needed.

The Civic Club's members voted to donate a "start-up" fund of $400 for a library. Jeannette led the drive to acquire donated books from residents, other libraries, book stores, publishers' overruns, and outdated books and magazines from publishers and distributors. Within two weeks, the book collection had grown to over 500 books. Mr. Bill Honey donated the first floor of a small house at 1205 Omaha Ave., Palm Harbor to house the library. Mr. John Hutcheons, President of the Civic Club, organized the building of book shelves with lumber donated by "Jim" Yakle of Yakle Lumber. Carpeting for the facility was donated by Mr. "Don" Valk, and Mr. Pert donated lighting improvements.

The Palm Harbor Library first opened it's doors to the citizens of Palm Harbor, Ozona and Crystal lleacl1 on April 1, 1978. Since the library was run by a small volunteer staff, the hours that it could be opened were:

Monday 4:00 - 7:00

Tuesday 2:00 - 5:00

Wednesday 10:00- 12:00

Thursday 3:00 - 6:00

Friday Hours to be announced

The response to the plea for books resulted in many duplicate copies, so the library held its first book sale on June 24, 1978 which netted over $200. By October, the volunteer force had grown to 24 and the library proudly extended its hours.

Community fund raising to support the library grew in 1979. The women of Westlake Village published and sold the *Westlake Village Community Cookbook* and donated the receipts to the library. The Spirit of Palm Harbor Race was run and garnered $500 to split between the library and the fledgling Recreation League. The number of volunteers at the library grew, as did the number of the donations of books. The volunteers formed the Palm Harbor Friends of the Library, Inc. on December 18, 1979. (See Appendix B.) There were nine subscribers named in the Articles of Incorporation. Of the nine members, five are still active in the library today.

1980 was a busy year for the library. The library volunteers held a meeting in January to elect officers for the newly formed Palm Harbor Friends of the Library, Inc. Jeannette Malouf was made the director of the library. She, along with John Hutcheons, received awards from the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce for their outstanding work in the community. The library continued to make money from its semi-annual book sales and donations from the community. More money was raised from the sale of coupon books. The Westlake Village Christmas boutique sale also donated its profits to the library. Jeannette asked the county for $500 to buy a typewriter and a file cabinet for the library. The county approved the money for these items. The library had outgrown its quarters on Omaha Circle and moved into the historical old Palm Harbor Methodist Church on 12th St. in Old Palm Harbor in December. The library boasted 10,000 volumes and served about 1,600 families.

The Palm Harbor Friends of the Library held its first annual volunteer appreciation banquet on January 11, 1981. It honored 49 volunteers. An open house was held the next week for the new library quarters. The library hours fluctuated quarterly due to the availability of volunteers. They added children's story time programs. In October, Jeannette wrote a request to the Pinellas County Commission for $580 from the general revenue-sharing funds in order to buy some needed equipment. This time the request was not approved. The library functioned strictly on volunteer help, proceeds from the semi-annual book sales and monetary donations. Summer programs for children were added. Since the number of children that participated was more than the small former church could accommodate, these programs were held in the Palm Harbor Senior Center located nearby. The Friends of the Library published its first newsletter in November.

1982 saw the continued growth of the patron base of the library. By the end of the year the library served 2,000 families, had around 20,000 volumes and was staffed by 50 volunteers. A new dimension in library service was added when a large print book collection was donated to the library in memory of Lea Gibbons. The library also received $500 from the county to buy lumber for additional shelving for the library since it was already running out of room for all of its books.

STATE FUNDING EFFORTS

1983 was an exciting year for the library. The year started out with the annual volunteer banquet. In March, Jeannette was named Outstanding Woman of the Year by the Palm Harbor Junior Woman's Club. This was the first time the award had been given. In April, other county library business was making the news. Joan Friedman proposed a one-half mill property tax levy for the county to support a county-wide library system. A group called the Pinellas County Friends of the Library was formed to plan the strategy for obtaining this system. Jeannette asked the Pinellas County Commission for funds from the county's fiscal 1984 Federal Revenue Sharing Funds to hire a librarian. This was denied. Meanwhile, the Florida State Library announced that public libraries could apply for as much as $200,000 for construction aid in grant money under a grant program administered by the State Division of Library Services. The grant would be included in the 1984-85 state budget. Palm Harbor wanted to apply for a $200,000 grant, but the following two problems had to be addressed in order to meet the grant qualifications:

1) The grant could be made only to a governmental agency. Palm Harbor was an unincorporated area of about 30,000 and had no local government other than the Pinellas County Board of Commissions. This hurdle was overcome when Pinellas County Administrator Fred Marquis said that the county would support Palm Harbor's grant application and act as a facilitator for them.

2) The grant would have to be matched by the community. Again the Pinellas County government helped out by agreeing to let the Palm Harbor community use an 8 acre site in the 1500 block of 16th St. that would count toward $100,000 of the matching funds needed from the community. Donations and fund raisers would have to account for the rest.

In late May, the Senate Appropriations Committee, aided by Senator Gerald Rehm, approved the $200,000 grant and sent it to the House Appropriations Committee. Rep. Peter Dunbar had the grant included in the House of Representatives version of its Appropriations Bill. The bills were sent to a Conference Committee which would settle the differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill. The grant survived the Conference Committee and was sent to Governor Bob Graham for approval. On June 30, 1983, Governor Graham vetoed it. The reason he gave was that the legislature had not given him his tax increase, so he had to cut spending by cutting some of the unnecessary spending. Rep. Peter Dunbar tried to override the veto in a special session of the Legislature, but failed.

Jeannette vowed not to give up the goal of a library building. The library would reapply to the legislature for the grant in the following session. She solicited business and civic organizations to adopt the library as their cause for the year 1984. The Republic Bank was the first business to enrich the library's building fund by $2,000 in October, 1983. Other groups such as Inner Wheel, the Junior Women's Club, the Palm Harbor Civic Club, and the Palm Harbor Newcomer's Club staged field raising drives for the library. The library hosted a wine and cheese tasting open house for the library to raise more funds. Jeannette and the library volunteers asked that each household donate $10.00 or whatever it could afford to the library building fund. The Friends of the Library devised six membership categories to raise money for the library:

Lifetime $100.00

One-year single $1.00

One-year family $2.00

One-year business $10.00

Patron $500

Benefactors $1,000

By January of 1984, the Friends had collected $13,000 towards the building goal. In March, the Palm Harbor Civic Club offered to sell the Palm Harbor Friends of the Library lots 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Block 128 in the town of Sutherland for "$10 and other good and valuable considerations " for the site of the new library building. This land is located four blocks directly north of the Palm Harbor Fire Station, located at 1123 Illinois Ave. The site is bordered by 12th St., Wisconsin Ave., and Illinois Ave. The land transferred was fee simple by warranty deed. The Palm Harbor Civic Club would retain the right of first refusal to purchase the property and building with credit given to them for the fair market value of the land if it was sought by either the Civic Club or by another purchaser. Other fund raising activities were continuing such as the Spirit of Palm Harbor Run, an antique sale, and activities by the Palm Harbor Junior Women's Club. The library had $30,000 by the end of March. It was decided in July that this lot offered by the Civic Club was too small for the proposed library. In August, the residents of Palm Harbor asked the Pinellas County to consider funding a building that would house a county library for residents outside the incorporated area. The Commission said that the people would have to make a formal proposal to them. Later in August, Florida Secretary of State George Firestone pledged to request $200,000 in matching funds for Palm Harbor to build a library in the next

Florida State Budget. Firestone visited the library in September and renewed his support for the library. Fund raising activities for the rest of the year included James Shauweker's pen-and-ink drawing of the Palm Harbor Library/United Methodist Church that was reproduced into posters and note cards, a Literary Ball, and an anonymous gift of $25,000.

CREATION OF PALM HARBOR SPECIAL FIRE CONTROL DISTRICT

In February, 1985, State Senator Curt Kiser proposed a bill to the State Legislature to create a Special Status District for the area within the boundaries delineated by the Palm Harbor and East Lake Fire Districts. By creating this special district, without becoming a city, Palm Harbor residents would gain the power to tax themselves for various services, including a library and keep their boundaries free from the threat of annexation. That meant Palm Harbor would become eligible for a library construction grant without having to wait for a county-wide system to be established. In April, 1985, an Advisory Committee was formed to assist the Friends of the library's Board of Directors with building plans and financial help. The Palm Harbor Library building fund topped $100,000 in May. The library then re-submitted its application for the $200,000 state grant. Senator Kiser proposed that his bill for the Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District (PHSFCD) be decided by July. This later version of the hill excluded the East Lake Fire District from the Special Taxing District area because of opposition expressed by some vocal East Lake residents. The bill retained the five member Pinellas Board of County Commissioners as the area's governing body, but prohibited the Commissioners from levying unwanted taxes on the area. It also contained a provision allowing Palm Harbor residents to override the County Commission if the Commission did not agree to its petition requests. For example, if the Commission rejected a petition, another petition signed by at least 10% of the voters would put the item back on the ballot. Early in June, Senator Kiser's bill was approved by the Legislature and the Governor signed it. (See Appendix C.)

CREATION OF THE MTSU

Late in June, Jeannette, Sen. Kiser, and Art Polin met with County Administrator Fred Marquis to discuss the proposed library and the county's role in its development. The Library had to submit the wording for the proposed November referendum to tax the residents of the newly created Special Status District for the construction of a library by July 15. The county set aside about two to three acres of land for the for the library board to lease located near the Palm Harbor Senior Citizens Center on Omaha Circle. Jeannette said that the library would need about $300,000 to build the new building and about $1,000 per month to pay for utilities and books. She said that one full-time staff member and a volunteer staff could run the new building. In July, Jeannette's husband, Waldense Malouf, drew up the referendum proposition that would create the library district and set the tax rate to support it. It went to the County Commissioners for approval so that they could coordinate it with the County Supervisor of Elections for the Special Referendum election and then be put to the voters. In August, the Pinellas County Election officials discovered that the referendum needed an enabling county ordinance to establish a Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) for the Palm Harbor Special Fire Control District. This ordinance needed to be voted upon by the County Commission before the Palm Harbor residents could vote on the referendum for the .25-mil ad valorem tax for the library and a companion referendum on local recreation facilities. The Commission had to approved the ordinance by early September in order to advertise the Oct. 15th referendum on Sept. 9th and

Sept. 24th. (See Appendix D.) The ordinance would terminate automatically if neither referendum question was approved. The County Commissioners would govern the MSTU would contract with a non-profit corporation called the Palm Harbor Community Services Agency (PHCSA) to administer the business operation of the district. (See Appendix E.) The P PHCSA would consist of 2 officers of the Palm Harbor Friends of the Library, Inc., 2 officers from the Palm Harbor Youth Recreation League, Inc., 2 officers from the Chamber of Commerce and 1 at-large member that would be appointed by the County Commissioners. The MSTU for Palm Harbor had 20,472 registered voters. The cost of the election ($10,000) was paid for by the library and recreation league. On October 15, 1985, both of the referendums passed by wide margins. Jeannette and her dedicated volunteers had done it!

Not everyone in the neighboring communities around Palm Harbor were happy. The people from the Spanish Pines community complained about the MSTU borders, since they were not included in the area and so could not get a free library card. The residents of East Lake complained about their exclusion from the PHSFCD. They said that a vocal minority, led by Joe Preston and East Lake fire Chief Robert Lani, got petitions signed by residents by telling them "don't let them raise our taxes." Senator Kiser said that he had left out the East Lake Fire District because it seemed to be what the majority wanted. It seems that a vocal minority got their way when the silent majority did what they do best-remained silent. Meanwhile, the Palm Harbor Friends of the Library continued to raise money to furnish the new building by holding their second Literary Ball that raised $5,000 for the building fund.

PREPARATION FOR BUILDING THE NEW LIBRARY

In November, 1985 the new members of the PHCSA were named: Jeannette Malouf and Betty Stegman represented the Friends of the Library, Jim Thunderman and John Gibbelino represented the Palm Harbor Recreation League, Dale Belcher and Robert Sippel represented the Palm Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and Jack Latvala was appointed by the Pinellas County Commission. Since the tax monies would not be collected until November, 1986 for the 1985 year, the Library would not see any money until then.

The Palm Harbor Friends of the Library honored 75 volunteers in February of 1986. Also in February, the library learned that the American Library Association recommended that the building needed to be at least 15,000 sq. ft. in order to serve a population of 35,000 to 50,000. The only site that available from the county to accommodate a building that large was a two-acre plot south of the Palm Harbor Day Care Center at Pennsylvania Ave. and lath Street. The library asked for any information about other suitable sites that weren't necessarily part of the county's land. It also called for people to write to their legislators and ask for state appropriations for the construction of the library. The building fund stood at $110,000. The Friends of the Library were asking for donations of money, materials, and services to keep down the cost of the construction. Architects were being interviewed by the Building Committee. By June, the Friends of the Library had collected $115,000 and had preliminary plans for a 15,000 sq. ft. building that would cost $750,000. The Pinellas County Board of Commissioners agreed to lend $180,000 to the PHCSA to help pay some of its start-up coasts. The money would have to be repaid to the county. In September the PHCSA signed a contract to purchase 3.3 acres on County Road 94 and Nebraska Ave. for S250,000 or nearly $75,800 an acre, despite the Library Board's recommendation that the county owned property on 16th Street be purchased instead at $51,000 per acre. There was some criticism of this decision by various members of the community. The Library Board issued a resolution stating that since it wanted the library built as soon as possible, it would approve the Nebraska Avenue site, provided that the appraisal of the land showed that it was worth the $250,000 asking price. The Library Board also hired Linda Mielke, a librarian from the Clearwater Library, to write a report as to the suitability of the Nebraska property versus two other sites that the library had considered. County Commissioner Fred Marquis said that the resolution and the report were necessary before the contract for the Nebraska site could be presented to the County Commissioners for their approval. A $1,620,000 bond issue proposal from the C&S Bank was also accepted by the PHCSA in September. This proposal allowed 324 tax-free bonds in $5,000 increments to be sold to investors to finance the library and recreation facilities. The bonds are debts issued to the Pinellas County Commissioners and are similar to a mortgage. If the bond proposal was accepted by the county, the proposal would put $1,550,000 in the PHCSA hands by November 20. The bond issue was chosen over conventional financing because of the lower interest rates. In December, the County Commissioners approved the purchase of the property on Nebraska Avenue for the site of the new Palm Harbor Library. The county approved to loan the money to the PHCSA, and would be reimbursed by the PHCSA with the bond issue.

The PHCSA appointed architects Ted Prindle and Don Davidson to design the new library building in their January 1987 meeting. The Palm Harbor Friends of the Library honored 70 volunteers at their annual dinner in Ternary. Debra Rhodes was hired to be the Library Director in March. She had a BA in English and literature from the University of Michigan and a Masters of Library Science from Western Michigan University. She came from Portsmith, VA where she had served as a Library Branch Manager. Also in March, the preliminary site and floor plans for the new library were completed and submitted to Tallahassee to satisfy the requirements of the $200,000 construction grant. The Friends of the Library had deposited $126,000 into the building fund. The fund raisers for the library continued with donations from the Junior Women's Club, and Antique Doll Show and a raffle of a quilt donated by the Quilter's club. June was a month of woes for the library. The architect who designed the library died. The engineer who was working on the project left the company. Delays in the approval of the final site plan approval by the county and the agency were aired in the press. The county said that the PHCSA had not provided enough information, or they needed to correct certain information before the plans could be approved. The PHCSA said that the county was dragging its feet. The plan was finally approved. The Notice of Bid to construct the Palm Harbor Library, issued by the architect Prindle Associates, Inc. of Clearwater, FL was published on July 19, July 26, and August 2, 1987. Lincoln Construction won the bid with $643,884, which was $100,000 below the architect's estimate of $775,000. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Palm Harbor Library was conducted on August 14, 1987. The Palm Harbor Civic Club announced that a petition was started to name the new library the Jeannette Malouf Library, but Jeannette felt that the library should reflect the efforts of the whole community. The name Palm Harbor Library was retained. The PHCSA did vote, however, to name the youth room in honor of Jeannette and so it was named the Jeannette Malouf Youth Room. Construction started two weeks later. The library was on its way to being completed.

The new library building slowly emerging on the Nebraska site in early 1988. The library was scheduled to be completed in mid-March, but was delayed because of excess ground water on the site. The certificate of occupancy was received in June for the new building. The lack of metal shelving for the books was another reason that the opening was delayed. The company that was to supply the shelving went out of business and a new supplier had to be found The shelving was delivered in June and the books transferred to the new building. On July 5, 1988, the Palm Harbor Library officially opened its doors for business. Dedication of the building was on Sunday, September 17, 1988. Jeannette was there along with Congressman Michael Bilerakis, State Senator Kurt Kiser, County Commissioner George Greer, Chairman of the PHCSA Dale Belcher, and Virginia Grigg, chief of the Library Development Bureau for the State of Florida.

THE LIBRARY TODAY

A lot of changes have occurred in the six years that the new building has been in operation. The library has grown from 2,500 registered patrons in July, 1988 to over 40,000 in April, 1994. It is in the midst of increasing its physical plant from 15,000 square feet to 25,000 square feet through another $300,000 matching state library grant. The library's holdings now number over 126,916, which includes books, video cassettes, audio cassettes, records, computer software, children's kits, puzzles, periodicals, magazines on microfiche, and CD-ROM products. 95% of these holdings are cataloged in the Machine Readable Cataloging (MARC) format so that they will be able to be retrieved by the new Dynix online public access catalog (OPAC) that the library will be installing in late summer of 1994.

Some things are the same, however. Jeannette Malouf is still spending at least 40 hours a week in the library, doing what she does best -- just about everything. She still sits on the Board of the PHCSA and is a member of the Palm Harbor Library Advisory Council and the Palm Harbor Friends of the Library. She is the Volunteer Coordinator for the 150 people who regularly staff the sixteen work-shifts throughout the week. That means that she still trains all of the new volunteers, coordinates the volunteer shifts, and handles all of the book donations that the library receives. She and her volunteers are still the backbone and heart of the library. Without their dedication, the library would have to spend the tax monies salaries for support staff, instead of on books. Community support for the library is still high, and with luck and Jeannette, it always will be.

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Palm Springs Public Library

(Member, Library Cooperative of the Palm Beaches, Inc.)

By Tracy Simkowitz

1988

1978-1988

The Jeanette J. Guerty Palm Springs Library celebrates its tenth anniversary in a beautiful new building which is the pride of the community. From one small room in Village Hall nearly two decades ago to today's state-of-the-art facility is a long journey, made possible by people who were, and still are, dedicated to the establishment and growth of a Village library.

In the early 1960s, Bobbe Taffel proposed a resolution to the Village Council to start a library. "I pushed it at each meeting," she said in a recent interview. "I'd bring it up and they'd say, well, we're not ready, or whatever, and then, when I was Vice-Mayor ... they said yes, and it knocked me off my feet."

"I didn't think that they would say yes," she continued. "The discussion was that they couldn't start a library, where would they put it? So I said 'You can start it anyplace.' I looked around and I found that little closet, behind the desks where we were meeting, and I said, 'Hey, you know, you could keep it right there.' They said okay ... it was a pretty rotten place, but anything to get it started!"

The Village published a flier, asking residents to donate books. Mrs. Taffel recruited her friend Janet Walker to help with the library project. Both women were classroom teachers, and both were taking graduate library science classes at the time.

"Those donated books came in," said Mrs. Walker, "Every type of book on the market, including comic books which we should have saved -- they'd be worth a fortune now!"

Mrs. Walker volunteered to organize and catalog the collection. "I said I'll write Gaylord [library supply company] and order just the minimum amount to get us started. Cards, card pockets, date due slips, a dater, boxes that divide cards alphabetically. And here are all these books totally unclassified ... it was a big mess! I worked six weeks -- I took a lot of that work home -- and I put them in some semblance of order. I had the authority to do that because by that time the mayor backed it wholeheartedly and gave me authority to do as I felt professionally best."

Volunteers, including Ban Robinson, Shirley Kohl, Mary Lou Seaman, Mary Schwenk, Norma Lasko, and Charlotte Lynch worked at the new library, making sure to keep regular hours so residents would know when it was open.

The Village Council established a Library Board, with Barbara Jette as Chairman. "She really took a full hand in trying to get the library going," said Mrs. Walker, who applied to serve on the Board. Other early Board members included Thelma Lowenkron, George Silverman, Moses Lennon, Victor Muller, Bobbe Taffel, Frances Mooney, and Janet Walker.

When the library outgrew Village Hall, a double-wide trailer was placed on land across the street, where the library parking lot is now. The library shared this space with the Recreation Department. Charlotte Lynch became a paid staff member.

The trailer provided more space, but not enough. Mrs. Lynch recalled, "There was no air conditioning, so we had the doors open ... it wasn't too bad. But it ,was just the size, for a library and all those books, why, it was impossible! I put the best sellers on one shelf so that people could see what we had. Then the children had to sit on the steps outside, when we were supposed to be noted for our children's library. But I did the best I could."

Mrs. Lynch had bookmarks printed at her own expense. She closed the library for two hours in the afternoon so that she could eat dinner. Once a month she made out a request list of bestsellers and handed it in to the Village Manager's office. "I don't know where the list went," she said, "but they gave me the money or the books."

Jeanette J. Guerty was elected to the Village Council in the early 1970s. Her favorite cause was the library. She lobbied for monies to fund the first real library building. Soft-spoken but determined Mrs. Guerty urged that revenue from the 1976 Capital Improvements Bond Issue be used to build the library. To honor her efforts, The Village Council named the library after her. Mrs. Guerty died in September of 1978, just before the opening of the first library building.

Janeen Campanero was appointed library director in 1978, the first professional librarian to hold that position. Dedication ceremonies for the new building were held on November 11 of that year. The new library offered 6,000 square feet for books and activities. Additional staff members were employed, including Eve Johnson as children's librarian.

In 1979, a group of library supporters organized the Friends of the Library. First officers were Berencie Bluestone, President; Lil Newall, Vice-president; Anne Dee, Secretary; Lee Locatelli, Treasurer; and Harry Schloss, Historian. The Friends began to sponsor many programs, including an annual art show. Sarah Gay was elected President in 1980.

Angelica Carpenter took over as director in 1978. With more than 20,000 items in the collection, additional space was needed. In 1985 voters approved a bond issue to enlarge the library by 50%.

The Palm Springs Library today has 9,000 square feet of space, with over 30,000 items for reference and circulation, a fine new children's department, and a beautiful new Multi-Purpose Room with a projection booth. Besides books, the library lends audio and video cassettes, art prints, and record albums. It offers a full range of programs for patrons of all ages.

With the help of Friends, volunteers, and colleagues from other Florida libraries, and with support from the Village Council, Village Manager, and other Village Departments, the library has earned a statewide reputation for excellence.

1988-1998 UPDATE

By Angelica Carpenter

April 1998

We now have about 40,000 items in our collection. We automated by joining the COALA (Cooperative Authority for Library Automation) consortium, using Sirsi Unicom software. We began circulation on the system in December 1997 and still have about 25% of the retrospective conversion to complete. In 1996 (I think) we offered Free-Net access to the public, and in January 1998 we began to offer full, unfiltered Internet access.

On October 1, 1997, the library joined The Library Cooperative of the Palm Beaches. Through the Cooperative, the library will receive State Aid for the first time this fiscal year. We have worked hard to win State Aid for municipal libraries in Palm Springs.

As part of that effort, the Palm Springs Library took a leadership role in the Florida Public Library Association. The group's articles of incorporation were signed in this library; I served as president; longtime Friends' President, Sarah Gay, also served on the founding FPLA board.

Locally, the Palm Springs Library has taken a leadership role in founding and supporting BookFest, an annual, regional literary festival. It started in 1991, when I was president of the Palm Beach County Library Association, and Sarah and Harry Gay from our Friends' Board also served on the founding BookFest board. The Village provides strong support for BookFest, donating money and giving many good people to work on it. BookFest has grown and prospered, outgrowing the volunteer organization of the library association, and now the Palm Beach County Cultural Council has assumed responsibility for the 1998 event.

The Palm Springs Library is now state headquarters for the Florida Chapter of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. My mother, Jean Shirley, began a local critique group for this organization when she moved to Palm Springs in 1984 and later became the Florida Regional Advisor. After her death in 1995, Barbara Casey became Florida Regional Advisor. The Palm Springs Library hosts a statewide workshop each September, co-sponsored by the SCBWI and the Florida Public Library Association. Speakers have included Avi, Gloria Houston, Loreen Leedy, Matt Novak, and many other well-known writers and illustrators. Starting in 1990, my mother and I published three biographies for young people, all from Lemer Publications: Frances Hodgson Burnett, L. Frank Baum, and Robert Louis Stevenson.

Thalia Becak was elected Friends' President in 1997; Sarah Gay continues as Program Chair. Our Friends are well-known in Florida for their active program of activities and they are consulted often by other groups who are starting or revitalizing. They host an annual Book and

Author luncheon. Speakers have included Elmore Leonard, Robert B. Parker, Olivia Goldsmith, and Tananarive Due. They publish an annual newsletter, host monthly programs, earn money by preparing the Village newsletter for mailing, sponsor a baseball team in the Village league, and donate money to the Village Scholarship and BookFest. This year they have filed for incorporation and 501(c)(3) status. I can barely keep up with them!

Our plans for the future include finishing the conversion project this year so that we can offer new programs like a local history project and computer instruction for staff and patrons.

Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System

(Calhoun, Holmes, and Washington Counties)

June 1998

The Panhandle Public Library Cooperative System (PPLCS) was formed in October, 1992, through an Interlocal Agreement signed by the Boards of County Commissioners of Calhoun, Holmes, Jackson and Washington Counties.

The four counties are located in the rural Panhandle of Northwest Florida. The PPLCS Administration is headquartered in Marianna, separate from the county libraries. Jackson County Public Library's main facility is in Marianna. Smaller communities in that county are served by a bookmobile. Calhoun County Public Library's main facility is in Blountstown, with branches in Atha, Hugh Creek, Kinard and Shelton's Park. Holmes County Public Library is located in Bonifay and there is a branch in Ponce de Leon. Washington County Public Library is in Chipley, with branches in Wausau and Vernon and a station in Ebro.

The Cooperative is governed by a twelve-member administrative board. Each county library is also served by an advisory board of local citizens.

For three years the Cooperative was the recipient of an LSCA grant, Family Learning Center, which developed collections and programming in the libraries. Recently, two county libraries participated in the REAP project. A total of eight Florinet grants will bring public Internet access to all other library outlets this year.

Pasco County Library System

The Pasco County Library System was established in 1980. In 1986, the voters approved a $10 million bond referendum to build five new libraries and to renovate two existing facilities. The result was a beautiful Regional Library and Administration Headquarters in Hudson and six branch libraries conveniently located throughout the county. A Support Services unit, housing cataloging, processing, automation and delivery functions is in a separate county building.

The Library System has grown significantly along with the county's population. Circulation of materials exceeded two million (2,142,348) for the first time in FY 95/96. Circulation per capita was 6.42, well above the Florida average of 5.19. The number of items in the collection is 432,410.

The Library System is fully automated (Data Research Associates) and linked through a computer service named POWER (Pasco's Online Web of Electronic Resources).

In 1993, the Library System embarked upon a community-based Long Range Plan for Library Services. A new mission statement was written and eight service goals established. The Libraries review their progress through an annual Action Plan.

Pinellas Park Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

The City of Pinellas Park was incorporated in 1915. A local volunteer organization known as the Sunshine Society provided city residents with their first library service in the 1920s. After nearly twenty years, there was a short period during WWII when the community was without a library before it was again organized in 1948, by volunteers who organized themselves into the Pinellas Park Public Library Association.

The library first was housed in an old pump house owned by the City Water Department. For a brief time after that it was located in a room of the former City Hall, before being moved to a building on Park Boulevard which is now the home of the Pinellas Park Arts Society. In 1959, the library became an official department of the City of Pinellas Park. With the help of a Federal Grant, a brand new facility was built in the present location in 1969.

In 1984, the structure was enlarged to create the current library building. A meeting room was added later that same year. Since 1984, the library has continued to grow, albeit within the confines of the same building. As library use has increased, the staff and collection have grown, new media and technologies have been made available and services have been expanded to meet demand. In its present structure, the library houses more than 90,000 books, videos and audio tapes, plus nearly 300 magazine titles, a dozen newspapers and other material. The library now has more than 25,000 registered borrowers.. Each day, more than 800 people visit the library, checking out nearly 1,000 items, and asking more than 200 reference questions of the library's professional staff. In the same average day, the staff fields another 100 questions coming in by phone.

Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.

The Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc. was established based upon the passage of a referendum in March 1989. This referendum offered residents in the unincorporated areas of Pinellas County the opportunity to vote to tax themselves up to .5 mills for library service. The referendum passed by a 75% majority and thus began the legal work to set the Cooperative in motion.

Prior to that time the librarians throughout Pinellas County sought ways by which they could open their doors to people outside their legal boundaries. The directors presented their ideas to the Council of Mayors and to the Pinellas County Commission which authorized the County Administrator to further explore the possibilities. Administrator Fred Marquis appointed his Chief Deputy Dora Harrison to work with the Library Directors and other interested parties to develop a plan. A broad public relations effort was begun led by the Library Directors and several Friends of the various libraries.

The public relations effort culminated in the success of the referendum.

Then the variety of paperwork and structural design began.

The Interlocal Agreement was the first of several documents created to describe the Cooperative, its legal basis, leadership and operations. This lengthy document included funding as a major component. A formula was developed whereby the County would allocate monies collected in the unincorporated areas to be used to operate the administrative unit and to support member libraries. These funds are allocated to the libraries to be used for operations -- staff, materials purchases, supplies and services. Another portion of these funds has been used to support buildings - new or renovations.

The Interlocal Agreement was signed by sixteen cities (five for the Gulf Beaches Library), the Palm Harbor taxing district and the County in 1989. Clearwater held out but finally joined in 1994.

In 1995 the document was revised to increase the Board to nine (9) members and to correct language pertaining to State and Federal funds. The revised document was signed by all members.

A supporting document is the Agreement between the County and the Cooperative Board which gives the Board greater authority for budgeting and funding allocations.

It was determined early on that a not-for-profit corporation should be established to administer the Cooperative. Under Florida law such an entity can be empowered to receive State and Federal funds for library services. It was further decided that a Board of Directors would be set up for the Corporation whose members would be residents of various areas of the county that belonged to the Cooperative, that these Board members would not be employees of any library in the county or elected officials of any Cooperative member city, town or district.

The County solicited nominations for this seven-member Board with the understanding it would appoint the first three who would serve as interim officers, It then fell to those three to review and appoint the remaining four members. This first Board of Directors was composed of

Elizabeth B. Mann, Ph.D. - Tarpon Springs - Retired University Professor

Lawrence Lyons - Seminole - Banker

Patricia Bauer - Dunedin - School Media Specialist

Joan Friedman - Pinellas Park - Co-owner, Air Conditioning Company

Orchid Rogers - Oldsmar - Real Estate Agent

Homer Still - St. Pete Beach - Retired State Veterans Affairs Official

The first duty of this Board, in addition to developing its Bylaws for approval by all member entities, was to hire an Administrator. An advertisement for the position was placed in national as well as state professional media. Responses were received and the list of candidates was eventually narrowed to three. Bernadette Storck, career employee of the Tampa-Hillsborough County Library System, was offered the position and began work on May 14, 1990.

As stated earlier in this narration, Clearwater Library System did not sign the original Interlocal Agreement. In 1994 Clearwater applied for membership and became a member effective October 1, 1994. Thus all of the existing public libraries are participants in Florida's first countywide public library cooperative.

Among the early goals of the Cooperative were the establishment of an Answer Center, the Talking Book Library and interlibrary courier service. A team of library directors proposed the Answer Center and wrote a grant which was funded by LSCA monies. The Answer Center was designed to provide back-up reference service for member libraries utilizing a variety of more costly, in-depth reference tools. The Center has operated from the Largo Library and is presently housed in Clearwater's Main Library.

The Talking Book Library was established in 1992 and opened to the eligible public in May 1993. It is housed with the Cooperative offices and provides services to all Pinellas County residents who are eligible regardless of whether they live in the Cooperative service areas or not. This subregional library works with the Regional Library in Daytona. The Pinellas Talking Book Library is staffed by two professional librarians, three full-time readers advisors/clerks and a part-time receptionist. It is also staffed by a devoted cadre of volunteers.

Courier service began in January 1991 with one volunteer who used his own truck, two days a week. His duty expanded to three days almost immediately. It soon became apparent a pick-up truck would not do the job so the Cooperative leased a cargo van. In 1996 the budget was expanded to allow for two couriers and two vans. Service is daily with the couriers each serving half the county with stops at the Supervisor of Election office twice a week, the School Board once a week and Hillsborough and Pasco Counties once a week.

In 1996 libraries in Hillsborough, Pasco and Pinellas Counties with the cooperation of the Tampa Bay Library Consortium decided to take interlibrary cooperation to a new plateau. The various libraries agreed to honor the library cards issued to residents with cards in their home counties. This means a resident of one county working in another has access to the collection in the neighboring library at the moment, not by waiting for interlibrary loan. Several residents are taking advantage of this system.

With the success of tri-county interlibrary cooperation another program was initiated in 1997. St. Petersburg Junior College and Pinellas Public Library Cooperative libraries have agreed to accept adult learners wherever they may be. This is another step toward cooperation in which Pinellas County has taken a lead.

The member libraries share resources, programs and talents. By purchasing some costly materials and databases through or by the Cooperative even smaller libraries are able to offer their readers access to more in-depth information sources. The library directors meet monthly and share committee work, planning and concerns. This networking has resulted in policies and procedures which are accepted countywide to the benefit of all clientele.

Brief histories of Pinellas county's public libraries offer an interesting review of some of the oldest of Florida's libraries and some of the newest. Small or temporary facilities have been replaced with new or newly renovated ones in the several years since the Cooperative began. Library staff numbers have increased and more professional librarians are available to serve the public. Friends and volunteers have increased in number and enthusiasm. The libraries and their readers all benefit.

Plans for the future include new main libraries for Clearwater and St. Petersburg, enlargement and renovation of Pinellas Park and a new headquarters for the Cooperative and the Talking Book Library. These projects should be on the way by the year 2000.

Member libraries and their current addresses (as of May 1998) are as follows:

Clearwater Library System

Main Library and Offices

100 N. Osceola Avenue

Clearwater, FL 33755

Beach Branch

40 Causeway Blvd.

Clearwater, FL 33767

Countryside Branch

2741 S.R. 580

Clearwater, FL 33761

East Branch

2251 Drew Street

Clearwater, FL 33765

North Greenwood Branch

1250 Palmetto Street

Clearwater, FL 33755

Dunedin Library

223 Douglas Avenue

Dunedin, FL 34698

Gulf Beaches Library

200 Municipal Drive

Madeira Beach, FL 33708

Gulfport Library

5501 28th Avenue South

Gulfport, FL 33707

Largo Library

351 East Bay Drive

Largo, FL 33770

Oldsmar Library

101 State Street West

Oldsmar, FL 34677

Palm Harbor Library

2330 Nebraska Avenue

Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Pinellas Park Library

7770 52nd Street North

Pinellas Park, FL 33781

Safety Harbor Library

101 2nd Street North

Safety Harbor, FL 34695

St. Petersburg Library System

Administrative Offices

280 5th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Main Library

3745 Ninth Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33713

Azalea Branch

7801 22nd Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33710

James Weldon Johnson Branch

1111 18th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, FL 33705

Mirror Lake Branch

280 5th Street North

St. Petersburg, FL 33701

North Branch

861 70th Avenue North

St. Petersburg, FL 33702

South Branch

1201 Country Club Way South

St. Petersburg, FL 33705

St. Pete Beach Library

365 73rd Avenue

St. Pete Beach, FL 33706

Seminole Library

9199 113th Street North

Seminole, FL 33772

Tarpon Springs Library

138 E. Lemon Street

Tarpon Springs, FL 34689

Pinellas Talking Book Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

12345 Starkey Road, Suite L

Largo, FL 33773-2629

Polk County Library Cooperative

On October 1, 1997 the new Polk County Library Cooperative came into existence. This marks a revolutionary new chapter in Polk County's history because for the first time ever there are interlocal agreements between all thirteen municipalities and the county to provide library services to all residents of Polk County with no out-of-city membership charges. For many years the city librarians had worked together to try to find a way to equitably provide services to all residents. All the libraries worked well together and informally shared resources and information, and a reciprocal borrowing agreement had been reached between a number of the libraries to allow patrons of one municipal library to get a card at another municipal library without having to pay for an out of city membership. Most of the thirteen municipal public libraries in the county had well established, well run library services in existence for their city residents, but received no funding means from the State or County to enable them to open their doors to all county residents without charging an out of city membership fee. Several attempts over the years had come close to developing a countywide service, but each time the project would fall through before a system was developed.

Then in 1996 the County applied for and received a grant from the State Library to hire a professional consultant to study the issue of countywide library service again. A series of meetings began in 1997 between the city governments, the city libraries, the county, and the state library to work out a plan for developing a library cooperative. After much hard work and plenty of give and take on both sides an Interlocal Agreement was drafted and signed by all municipalities with a library and the county. An additional bonus that has proven to be quite an asset for the Cooperative was the inclusion of the Polk County Historical/Genealogical Library and the Polk County Law Library in the Cooperative membership. These libraries are non-circulating research libraries and are valued and unique members of the Cooperative.

The County allocated funds to be distributed among the 13 libraries based on a formula set forth in the Interlocal agreement. A Governing Board was formed in October consisting of one representative from each municipality and one from the County government, A December 1st deadline was met for writing, approving and submitting a Long-Range Plan, Annual Plan of Service, Aggregated Budget, and Aggregated Statistical Report to the State Library. The Governing Board approved a job description for a Cooperative Coordinator and entered into a contract with the City of Bartow to have the Assistant Director of the Bartow Public Library be the new Cooperative Coordinator. Committees have been formed and plans are underway for beginning a delivery system, developing outreach services, and studying technology needs. The libraries are all very excited about the possibilities the future holds and proud to be a part of this wonderful new chapter in Polk County's library history!

Putnam County Library System

From *The River Flows North* by Brian Michaels

In 1930 the Palatka Public Library was given a new building by philanthropist James Ross Mellon, who had wintered in Palatka for nearly fifty years. To be sure, Mellon may not have been the first man of means to have been accorded that opportunity to provide for the citizens of Palatka and Putnam County what they could not - or would not - provide for themselves, but he was the first to avail himself of the opportunity.

"In the early part of the winter of 1894 a few women of this town entered upon the noble work of establishing a reading room, mainly as an attraction for our young men and, during their leisure hours, for our working men from shops and mills." So begins the tale of the "noble work" of the Palatka Public Library, as told by one of the "founding mothers" of the institution, Mrs. George E. Welch, in a letter of April 1899, to Andrew Carnegie.

> "Notice was given that all interested were to meet at the high school building December 28. A small organization was formed, officers elected, and committees appointed.
>
> That night came the first of those destructive freezes of '94 which have so prostrated Florida, but the spirited effort of these men and women was not to be checked by cold or disaster.
>
> A canvass of the town was made, three hundred dollars were subscribed, a room rented and furnished, librarian employed at $2 a week, and reading room kept open three hours in the afternoon and three in the evening.

A loan of two hundred old books of a disbanded club was made as a nucleus; many of these were ill-chosen. Some books were given by tourists and a few of the latest publications were bought. The current magazines and one daily paper were subscribed for.

This was our beginning.

By entertainments and solicitations we have kept up the current expenses and increased the library to about three thousand volumes.

The town has never been able to help us, and knowing of your interest in libraries in general we have ventured to ask aid of you for the Palatka Public Library Association.

You have its history and can judge of its merits."

- Betty P. Welch

What response, if any, Mrs. Welch had from the philanthropist is not known - nor is whether the letter was actually sent; the copy from which the text has been taken is a signed original in the files of the Palatka Public Library, and it may have been only a draft, a copy, or a rejected idea. Another letter Mrs. Welch wrote, apparently at the same time, received a cordial reply of April 24 from Congressman Robert W. Davis, thanking Mrs. Welch for informing him of his election as an honorary member of the Library Association: "I trust you will call on me for such service or assistance as I may be able to render at any time," his letter concluded.

The Woman's Fortnightly Club, forerunner of the Palatka Woman s Club, was organized in 1897, with Mrs. Welch as its president. In the early years an annual $2 subscription was requested of library patrons who wished borrowing privileges, and "entertainments" of various sorts were sponsored to raise funds for operating the "reading room" and expanding its collection.

One of the entertainments was advertised in the Palatka News and Advertiser of January 12, 1906: "The checker game for the benefit of the Public Library will take place at the Armory on Monday night. The admission is 25 cents. There will be dancing for all who so desire."

In 1912 the "City Library" moved to the second floor of the City Building built in 1905.

In 1915, when the library association met "at the library hall" on April 30 for its annual session, all officers were re-elected, including the "collector" H.F. Lecks. Whether Mr. Lecks was to collect money or overdue books was not indicated by the report of the meeting, but either function probably would have served a useful purpose.

The state legislature amended the city's charter in 1919 to authorize the city to establish and maintain a public library, and the "entire equipment" of the Palatka Library Association was formally transferred to the city on January 1, 1920.

By 1927, according to The *Times-Herald Year Book* for 1928 and *Citizens' Manual of Palatka and Putnam County, Florida*, the roster of librarians of the little library had included "Mrs. Conway," Miss Sallie Bollinger, 1896-1905; Miss Genevieve Merrill, 1906; Miss Louise Moragne, 1906-1918; Mrs. H.M. Buck, 1919-1920; Miss Serena C. Bailey, 1921-1922; and Miss Bess MacGill, 1923-. Miss MacGill's tenure would stretch to more than thirty years, enabling her to write an interesting and authoritative "History of the Palatka Public Library" for the *Palatka Times-Herald* of May 21, 1953.

James Ross Mellon spent a good deal of time in the library in and around 1929, watching the children who used the facility and noticing that "space was becoming limited." He was doubtless aware, also, of the library board's anguish when, after they had saved $5,000 toward a needed new building, they saw it "swept into the account of general funds" by the city at the end of the fiscal year. In any case, Mellon soon chose a building board headed by A. Weyman Houston and including Robert L. Wright and A.L. Teaff. The city offered the property at the corner of Third and Reid, which it had acquired in 1903 for $800, and Mellon engaged Jacksonville architect H.J. Klutho to design the building. William J. Banks was appointed to supervise the erection of the building, "which was to be a memorial to Mrs. Mellon and to be known as the Larimer Memorial Building," with a bronze tablet to that effect in the building's main lobby.

After the building was completed and dedicated, with much fanfare and special newspaper editions, in April of 1930, James Ross Mellon would have his chauffeur park outside the facility at the noon hour "so that he could watch the children coming and going. He was greatly interested in the children from the county. Frequently he remarked that the library should be a county library."

A perceptive man, Mr. Mellon.

Not long after the dedication of the Larimer Library, James R. Mellon was honored by his fellow Kiwanians at their weekly luncheon meeting. The speaker was real estate man C.W. Loveland.

> "Here in our city we have just celebrated the Dedication of the Larimer Memorial Library, a gift of our fellow Kiwanian to the city in commemoration of his beloved wife.... I believe his great purpose in erecting this memorial was to build up cultural and spiritual values in this city which for nearly half a century has served him as a winter home.

> I have no doubt that he cast about in many ways to find some fitting gift to bestow on this community which had become endeared to him through many years of association. It was a happy thought which caused him to finally determine to let that gift take the form of "the poor man's University."
>
> Fellow Kiwanians, if you have not visited the Palatka Public Library of an afternoon after 3:30 o'clock, let me implore you to do so. You will find the room crowded with earnest school children from the grammar and high school grades who are encouraged to use that institution as a laboratory by their teachers.
>
> Teaching has vastly improved since you and I conned our lessons by rote. Today the library is an indispensable adjunct to any right scheme of education for our youth.
>
> And friends, it seems to me that run efficiently, as our Palatka Library is run by our devoted and untiring Librarians, it is the one bright ray of hope for our youth who are beset on every side by attractions and excitements leading them to an artificial and even degrading attitude toward life....
>
> But a Library is more even than an adjunct to our schools. It is the poor man's university. It can be made the rock on which to build an enlightened citizenry. The real curse of the world is ignorance. Illumine the human mind with intelligence and most of the ills of humanity will cease."

A perceptive man, Mr. Loveland.

In 1976 the Palatka Public Library continues to try - as it has tried for more than eighty years, to become that "rock on which to build an enlightened citizenry" - always with too few staff and insufficient funding. When the Putnam County Commission some time ago reduced its annual library allocation of $2,200 to $2,000 to "tighten the county budget," it prompted a resolution from the local chamber of commerce calling for more funding. Nonetheless, the constant struggle for money to improve services and to expand collections is, as the history of Palatka's public library clearly reveals, simply a matter of priorities. When the citizens of Putnam County rise up and demand better funding for libraries and other things educational, they shall have them. That is the view, at least, of one Palatka retiree who expressed his chagrin in this letter published in the *Palatka Daily News* of June 28, 1976.

> "Editor, Palatka Daily News:
>
> The Putnam County Fishing Improvement Fund apparently spent some $3 1,000 in a year to improve fishing. The money was provided by a special $1 assessment on each fishing license.
>
> The County could afford only $2,000 for public library facilities to improve the human mind. In some Florida counties a special millage is provided for library purposes.
>
> If the citizens of Putnam County are satisfied with this rather strange ordering of priorities, they have no reason to complain that their high school graduates are unable to read or write.
>
> Max Buck"

A perceptive man, Mr. Buck.

In 1976 the Palatka Public Library Board of Directors includes William Spalding, president; Evelyn (Mrs. Ralph) Tavel, vice-president; Geraldine (Mrs. Lynn) Burling, secretary; Jack

Zahner, treasurer; and Herbert A. Wilson. The full-time library staff consists of Librarian Frances Cordray, Mary Jo Barry Waterhouse, and Mary Hickey.

UPDATE: In 1991, the Library moved to a new 15,000 square foot headquarters on the campus of St. Johns River Community College

Safety Harbor Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

1938-1982

A library for the City of Safety Harbor is first mentioned in the minutes of the October 19, 1938 meeting of the Women's Civic Club, an outgrowth of the Civic Association of Safety Harbor, who meet at the Community House which is located at Second Street North. The President of the Women's Civic Club, Mrs. Zinser, appointed Mrs. Kindred as Chairman of a committee to investigate the feasibility of opening a library funded through the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.).

Mrs. Zinser contacted Mrs. Sara Pomeroy, an Area Consultant on State-wide Library Services, who announced that Safety Harbor would have a library located in the Community House, free of charge. The Women's Civic Club was responsible for the transportation charges on books, (50 at a time), from Jacksonville and returning them at regular intervals. The Club was also responsible for the maintenance of the building.

After due consideration, Mrs. Daisy Cahow was appointed as First Librarian by W.P.A., on November 25, 1938. Although plans were for the Library to be open every day, particular hours had not been established, other than on Saturday from 10 to 11 a.m. for a Children's Hour. There appears to be no record of specific daily hours the Library was opened to the public and can only assume that regular hours were established at this point in time.

At the November 25, 1938 meeting, the Librarian, Mrs. Cahow reported that books were on the shelves and that gifts and loans of books would be appreciated. She also stated that in order to keep the Library, there must be good circulation. The need for some Library supplies was brought to the attention of the Women's Civic Club and the purchases were authorized.

Mrs. Zinser suggested that a Book Tea benefit be held for the Library and this was scheduled for January 20, 1939. Admission to the Tea, was the donation of a book. Fifty books were donated and $2.35. It was also reported that there were one hundred books in the Library, not including the State books --which were being borrowed.

Plans were then made for a Silver Tea Benefit to be held on February 14, 1939. The speaker, who was not named, presented a book for the Library, titled "The Magic Spear." The next Tea Benefit was on March 30, 1939 and was hosted by Mrs. Flagg, who displayed her foreign doll collection.

It was during this time that the first Library Committee was appointed. Mrs. Kindred was now President of the Women's Civic Club and since she was already a supervisor under W.P.A., she assumed the Chairmanship and then appointed Mrs. Bristow and Mrs. D.W. Shower to serve with her on the committee.

Mrs. Cahow had proved to be a good Librarian and was complimented not only by the club, but received a high commendation from W.P.A., as being rated as one of the best librarians in this district. The Librarian reported that she now had one hundred and twenty-three books and one hundred thirteen patrons.

During this period of time, W.P.A. decided to close the Safety Harbor Library, but kept it open after Mrs. Cahow offered to operate it for seven weeks at three dollars a week. The Library hours were Mondays 1-4:30, Wednesdays 9-12 and Fridays 1-4:30. Since the book fund had a balance of only sixteen cents and two weeks salary was due the Librarian, a rummage sale was held and brought a profit of twelve dollars. Five dollars were taken out and placed in the book fund. A gift of two hundred books were given to Mrs. Cahow by a friend and another Book Tea brought an additional thirteen books and $6.75.

The Librarian's report stated that forty-five books belonging to the club were in circulation and fifty more borrowed books were on the shelves. She also noted that there was a need for more children's books and another box of books were donated by a friend. Five of the newest books were purchased and after they were received, were placed on a rental shelf for three cents a day, with a five-cent minimum.

Gifts of books continued to come in until the space available in the Community House, which was allotted to the Library, became so crowded that the Librarian requested to have her desk moved outside the rail (evidently the space for the Library was confined to a railed area). Permission was granted for this move. In the Librarian's most recent report, $2.16 had been acquired through rentals and the Library Committee was authorized to buy a new book with this money. There was then a need for more shelves and Mr. T.D. Kincaid made them free of charge.

At the April 22, 1940 meeting, it was reported that there were 800 books. In October of this year, 418 books were received from Enoch Pratt Library in Baltimore, and 340 from Mr. Coit of Clearwater, bringing the total number to 1500. On December 13, 1940, there was $1.04 in the Library Fund, so the Women's Civic Club planned another Book Tea for the month of January. There seems to be no record of how much was realized from this tea, however, it was noted that most new books were purchased through Mr. Barron's Drug Store at a discount price.

The question of whether W.P.A. would continue to support the Library arose once again. Mrs. Kindred and her Library Committee held a meeting to make plans for keeping the Library open after W.P.A. funds were no longer received. In the meantime, the Librarian reported that the Library had again been approved and she would receive her work card soon. No funds had been received from W.P.A. since April 28, 1941, so by October 10th, the Library Fund had been expended. At three consecutive meetings, it had been reported that there was no money in the Library Fund, however, the Library had been kept open through the summer, except during the time the Librarian was on vacation. At the October 24, 1941 meeting, the Librarian reported she had received her work card and that affairs would continue as a W.P.A. project. Although the State Supervisor gave approval to the Library, it was suggested that a change in the hours to 6 hours a day, five days a week and closed on the weekend. Hours being set at 10:30 to 5:00 each day.

Through a Street Carnival, the Library Fund grew as half of the proceeds, which came to $35.25 were added to it.

On March 16, 1942, a special meeting was called to consider the affairs of the Library. All the libraries, funded by W.P.A. in the State of Florida, were being closed on the second of March, 1942 and the funds would no longer be available. After a lengthy discussion at a meeting of the Executive Board, it was agreed to retain Mrs. Cahow as the Librarian at a salary of $5.00 per week. The Library hours were set to be open from 1-5, Tuesday through Friday. When asking for members to help out in the Library, Mrs. Barron, Bakeman, Washington and Sward volunteered their time and started working on March 9, 1942. A notice was put in the *Herald*, stating that. it would be necessary to start charging for Library services. Adults were asked if they would be willing to contribute $1.00 annually. The school children were not charged.

On April 24, 1942, the Library Fund had $3.00 in it and the Library Subscription Fund had $6.50. By May 15th, there was no money in the original fund, but $21.50 in the Subscription Fund, which was probably from the $1.00 fees.

There is a lapse in the records from March, 1942 to January 18, 1943.

In January, 1943, a joint meeting of the Executive Board and the Library Committee was held at the Community House. The objective of the meeting was to discuss finding another Librarian, since Mrs. Cahow had taken another position elsewhere. This was a problem, as the Club could not pay the salary paid by W.P.A. It was then decided to open the Library on Saturday afternoons only, from 3-5 and Mrs. Cahow agreed to stay for $1.00 per week until other arrangements could be made.

The records of the February 26, 1943 meeting show that there was an applicant for the Librarian position, but due to lack of attendance by the members at the meetings, no action was taken on this application. The applicant, Deloris Shepherd, may or may not have been hired, the record is unclear, however, someone was hired and worked until the month of April. In April, Carolyn Simms was hired to work as the Librarian for that month only.

On May 1, 1943, Mrs. Blanche Weagraff was hired as the Librarian for the month of May. The Library was to be closed during the summer, but due to the demand, the Board consented and Mrs. Weagraff agreed to volunteer her time, without pay for one afternoon each week. This was done each summer for the following six years.

In the minutes of the annual meeting of May 14, 1943, it was reported that a book had been lost from the Library.

The previous Librarian had done all she could do to recover it, without any success. The new Librarian was asked to find this book and in spite of her efforts, the book was not returned until three years later, when it was discovered in the Desoto Hotel kitchen.

In September, 1943, a decision was made to keep the Library open on Tuesdays and Thursdays and to pay the Librarian $1.75 each week. At the October 8th meeting, the plans changed again. The Library was to remain open five days each week, and the Librarian's salary was to stay at 87 1/2 cents each day. The Club paid for half of the Librarians salary. During this month, Mrs. Zeliff was appointed as the Assistant Librarian.

The Librarian's report on February 11, 1944 stated that the Library had been open for eight days with 23 patrons and 145 books circulated. An additional 35 books had been acquired between October 26, 1943 and February 11, 1944. Mrs. Shepherd was appointed as Substitute Librarian when Mrs. Weagraf was hospitalized with rheumatic fever After the annual meeting on April 21st, the club recessed for the summer. The meetings resumed on October 27, 1944. At this first meeting, Mrs. Sward asked the Club if they would grant an increase in pay to the Librarian from 87 1/2 cents per day to $1.00 for each day the Library was open. The increase was approved.

In December, 1944, a revolving plan was arranged with the Clearwater Library, whereby books could be borrowed from them. This continued until the 25th Club Anniversary in 1956.

In February, 1945, the Librarian reported that there were an additional 31 books, 18 new Library cards had been issued and that 420 books were circulated between January 2nd and February 8, 1945. The number of patrons had now grown to 54, both adult and juvenile. At the annual meeting this year, it was reported that the Library was quite active and that Mrs. Fleming would act as Librarian through the month of May to relieve Mrs. Weagroff for her vacation. However, the Library was closed for the month of June, but opened again on the first Tuesday in July. At this time, book rental was changed from three cents per day to ten cents a week.

During November, 1945, fifty books were received from Mr. George Carr and another 140 from Mr. Coit. The Librarian reported that more new shelves were needed and was authorized to purchase them.

At the December 4, 1945 meeting, it was noted that the, shelves were installed, having been made by the Librarian and Mr. William Burke.

At the last meeting in 1945, which was a Book Tea, the Librarian was surprised with a birthday party. She was presented with a purse of money to buy a pop-up toaster, (some little bird had told the Club that this was what she wanted), but due to the war and shortages of such items, it could not be purchased at this time. After the winter vacationers left that spring, it was decided to open the Library for one day each week on Tuesday from 9-11.

On January 11, 1946, Miss Hoagland, Chairman of the Library Committee, reported that two new books had been ordered and that there was $10.38 in the Library Fund. 243 books had been circulated this month and four new Library cards had been issued.

When the Librarian made her report on November 8, 1946, she said that from May 7th to date, the Library had been open for 82 hours, 51 patrons had checked out a total of 791 books. There were now 2463 books in the Library and 23 adult and 12 juvenile cards had been issued; and $17.66 had been taken in for rentals and over-due charges. Mrs. Weagraff had also made and installed a new book case. Miss Hoagland reported the purchase of eleven adult and five juvenile books at a total cost of $24.22. It was becoming quite evident that a larger Library was needed and discussions on how to accomplish this were ongoing.

Miss Hoagland's next report stated that between November 19 and December 10, 1946, that thirteen books of fiction, five of non-fiction and three juvenile books were bought at a cost of $32.25. These books with 82 loaned books and three gift books made a total of 113 books received since her last report.

It was about this time that Dr. Salem Baranoff, a very civic-minded man, came to Safety Harbor. After learning of the need for a larger library and of the Civic Club, who had sponsored the Library since 1938, he told them that he would buy and donate the land for a new building. The Women's Civic Club gratefully accepted his offer. Dr. Baranoff purchased the two lots on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Second Street North and presented them to the Club. His generosity did not stop here, for he continued to give monetary contributions and through his influence, the guests at the spa, which he owned and operated at the time and also gave generously to the new Library project.

Early in 1947, Mr. Aultshuler was employed as architect. The members of the Club Building Committee were to meet with him to prepare plans and specifications for the building. Ground breaking ceremonies did not take place until two years later on March 4, 1949. Ceremonies were as follows: Mrs. George Sward, President of the Club, introduced the Rev. Nysewander, pastor of the Methodist Church, who gave the Invocation. Mayor Dr. J.P. Melser spoke briefly, praising the Club for the work it had done to secure money to build the new Library, stating that this would be a big asset to the city. Dr. Baranoff was the main speaker. He spoke of the Civic Projects that had already been completed in the city and said that Safety Harbor is the City of Miracles where so much had been done by such a small population and rated the 'City as outstanding in the county and state. He praised the Civic Club for their decision to build a new library, which would be an aid in furthering higher education, wisdom and brotherly love. In closing, he gave Mrs. Sward $50.00 to further the project and turned the first shovel full of dirt.

Following the ceremony, many other monetary contributions were made; one by Professor Van Buren of the University-of Brussels, Belgium, who was visiting here. For the two previous years, the Women of the Club had been raising money for this project with concerts, bazaars, card parties and soliciting contributions and holding dances.

The building, which is of concrete block construction, with the interior finished with cypress paneling, was started the Monday following the dedication ceremonies. Rooms consisted of one large room, two small rooms, restrooms and a storage room. It was ready for occupancy in July of the same year. Moving costs totaled $1.25, as Mr. Seidel loaned his truck to move the books and Mr. Dunham loaned his truck to move the furniture and cases. Packing of books were done by the Librarian, who was helped by children who owed money on past-due books. Circulation of books from the new Library started on October 1, 1949.

Dedication ceremonies were held on November 18, 1949, with Mrs. Sward, President, introducing the speakers who referred to this as a "Red Letter Day" and this dedication as "A Dream Come True." The speakers were as follows: Rev. B.D. Nysewander, Mayor Melser, Miss Sara Byers, the Clearwater Librarian, Mrs. Cherkasess of Gulfport who was President of the County Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. Weagraff, the Safety Harbor Librarian, Dr. Salem Baranoff, Mrs. Hilda Glaser of the St. Petersburg Library who was representing Stanley L. Weat, the President of the Florida Library Association and Gary Linton Principal of the local school. Bess Hoagland had made arrangements for the program, flower arrangements were made by George Carr. Mrs. Sward stated that only through the splendid cooperation of the citizens of Safety Harbor, had the completion of the project been possible.

When the Library moved into the new building in July, it was free of debt, however, some rooms were not finished and lights had not been installed. Once again, guests of the Spa through contributions at a musical the Club held at the Hotel, raised enough to purchase the fluorescent lights that are in the Library today. It should be reported however, this a bit belatedly, that the first money raising project was through the efforts of Mrs. Weagraff and Geraldine McKowen, who planned and presented "Breakfast in Hollywood." This was held at the Methodist Church Annex. There is no mention of the amount this program earned.

The Library grew from the time of its dedication. Reports showed a continual increase in circulation, the number of books obtained and the number of library cards issued. The Librarian's salary increased finally to $60.00 a month and the hours were established to fifteen per week, Monday through Thursday and Saturdays from 2-5 P.M. and during the summer months of June, July and August, the Library would be open three days a week, Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Mrs. Weagraff was a very dedicated Librarian, who established the system and order that prevailed for many years. She continued in her office until 1956. This year marked the 25th A nniversary of the Club. In a brief postscript from a History of the Library written by her and from which much of the forgoing information was gathered, she says, " In the 13 years I have served as librarian, it has been a labor of love for me, because everyone has been most kind and considerate and I thoroughly enjoy the work very much."

Her successor was Mrs. Ruth Raymund. In writing about Mrs. Raymund, Mrs. Weagraff in a piece recognizing April 3-9, 1960 as National Library Week she says: Mrs. Raymund-Librarian since 1957-by Blance Weagraff-[This was probably written as publicity for the newspaper] "Libraries everywhere will be celebrating National Library Week, April 3-9, 1960 and our library will be celebrating with them. Libraries have a lot of things, buildings, books, maps, games, some have puzzles to amuse old and young alike, but most important are the librarians who keep the whole organization running smoothly. Let me tell you a little about the lady who runs our library so efficiently, Mrs. Ruth Raymund. She lives at 215 Third Avenue North with her husband, Bernard Raymund. She was born in Hinsdale, New Hampshire and attended the local schools, also Pottsdam State Normal School, Albany State College for Teachers, later going to Ohio State University, where she received her M.A. Degree in English.

She taught English in a private school in Alabama and several High Schools in New York State and was a librarian in Henderson, New York for three years.

Dr. and Mrs. Raymund moved to Safety Harbor in 1948 after coming here winters for several years. She was assistant librarian from 1950 till her appointment to her present position in 1957. Her hobbies are writing, poetry, water color painting, making posters for all Civic Club activities and keeping the club house and library decorated with beautiful flower arrangements. She is never too busy to stop and help someone find a book to read or look up material for a high school student to write an essay or a book report. You will find her at the Library early and late cataloging and arranging books.

If you have not met our gracious helpful Librarian, come to Open House at the Library April 7th from 7-9 and meet her."

Mrs. Raymund remained Librarian for about five years. She was succeeded by Mrs. Mary Lehman. Mrs. Lehman was a good Librarian. If anyone requested a book on any subject and the Library owned a copy of it, she knew exactly where to put her hands on it. She lived diagonally across Fifth Avenue, from the Library and spent extra hours there cleaning, arranging books and doing such chores as were necessary, but-that could not be done during regular hours. Regular hours were still from 2-5, five days a week, the Library being closed on Friday. Salary had reached $60.00 per month. Mrs. Lehman remained as Librarian until December, 1968 when Mrs. Chrissie Elmore replaced her.

Mrs. Elmore is a graduate of the University of North Carolina, Greensboro Campus. She has a B.A. degree and has been a former school teacher. Other than her work in the Library, she is interested in painting and weaving. Samples of her work are in evidence at the Library. In the past two years, she has had an assistant (paid), first Rita Gartland and currently Harriet Seidel.

Down through the years, library business has been carried on by a Library Committee appointed by The Club president. After the Library was well established, The Civic Association decided to build its own clubhouse. It was at this time the name was changed to The Woman's Civic Club of Safety Harbor, Inc. In order to sell bonds to finance the clubhouse building, it was necessary to be incorporated by the State. So, herein after reference to the club will mean The Woman's Civic Club. Committee Chairmen of the Library Committee have been: Miss Hoagland, Mrs. Weagraff, Mrs. Harry Kline, Mrs. John J. Parker, and Mrs. Robert Johnston.

Expenses have been met in various ways through the usual fines, dues and rentals generated by the Library, half the proceeds from an annual bazaar, which was held for many years, card parties, luncheons, public dinners, catering receptions, rummage sales and a portion of each members club dues.

The Library has been supplied with flags by the Veterans Organizations. The first by The Veterans Club. The following is a quote from a newspaper item. "LIBRARY RECEIVES FLAG: Safety Harbor Veterans Club members presented a new flag to the community's library. School children, some of whom are shown at the left were present for the ceremony on the Library lawn. Boys from school will raise and lower the flag each morning and afternoon. Rev. Charles M. Carlton, National Chaplin of American Veterans, Gary Linton the principal of the local school, John McKeown, the Commander of the Safety Harbor Veterans Club and John F. Kenny, all of Safety Harbor were present." (no date) The American Legion has kept the Library supplied with flags many years as they were needed. Members of The Women's Club held Memorial Day Services annually under the trees, near the Library and in later years, this became a joint effort of The Club and The American Legion. However, in the past four or five years, these services have been discontinued.

From time to time, the City has contributed to the support of the Library. Sometimes as little as $100.00 and for a few years preceding 1978, the sum of $600.00 a year. Dr. Baranoff and other public-spirited citizens have contributed and a number of bequests left in wills for support of the Library, notably by Hattie Symonds-Dodge and Madaline Griggs. By 1977-78, the Club came to the realization that it could no longer adequately finance a public library. The City has grown substantially from 2,500 people to well over 5,000. The Halton Trust Fund is used at the discretion of the Women's Civic Club.

Mrs. John J. Parker was elected President of the Women's Civic Club, to serve from May 1, 1976 through April 30, 1978. Under her leadership, a decision was made by the W.C.C. membership to look into the feasibility of a City take-over of the Library. She presented the Clubs problem and its desire to have the City assume full responsibility for providing library service for the citizens of Safety Harbor at a Commission Meeting or in lieu of this, provide adequate funds for the W.C.C. to continue to do so. The Club voted to turn down the City's initial offer of $3,000.00. The City Attorney had stated that the City could not provide any money for the Library unless the Library property was deeded over to the City. Though there was a reverter clause in the agreement submitted, that if the City did not provide funds at the beginning of its next fiscal year, the property would revert back to the Women's Civic Club. There was no assurance that in October, the City would, in fact, provide adequate funds for the operation of the Library. If this was the case, the W.C.C. would be right back where it started, without funds to operate and maintain the establishment.

All information regarding negotiations between the City and the W.C.C. are contained in the accompanying papers. it was after Mrs. Wilkey became President of the Club on May 1, 1978, that a final agreement with the City was more or less reached. However, between her election to office and the opening of the W.C.C. in October, she died.

At this time, Mrs. Parker was Chairman of the Library Committee and since she had done all the preliminary work toward City ownership of the Library, and subsequently was elected Treasurer of the Club, she agreed to take over the so-called administrative work and keep the books for the Library. Laura Johnston then became Chairman of the Library Committee.

The final outcome of the above-mentioned negotiations and an affirmative vote by the W.C.C. to deed the property over to the City, resulted in a leasing back of the property to the Club and the City budgeting $8,000.00 for the Library for fiscal 1978-79. This renewable from year to year.

$8,000.00 was again budgeted for 1979-80. During this year, the W.C.C. came to a decision that it could no longer assume the responsibility of operating the Public Library. There were several contributing factors leading to this decision. Mrs. Parker did not want to continue as Administrator and Treasurer after October 1, 1980 and apparently another member wanted this responsibility. Since funding by the City, Library Committee Members did not want to do volunteer work as had been customary in the past and after so many hears since 1938, the Club felt that it was time for the City to assume full responsibility for a Public Library.

The Library budget is as follows: Fiscal Year 1981-82 was $300.00/Month Fiscal Year 1982-83 was $416.66/Month Fiscal Year 1983-84 was $446.66/Month

We subscribe to Literary Guild, Young Adult Literary Guild and six reading levels of Juvenile Literary Guild, Starlight Romances, Mystery Club and Westerns. These are payable upon subscription by the year. We also have plans for Adults, Young Adults and Juveniles payable upon receiving invoice. We get a 40% discount and free care kits. We also get a selection from Literary Guild Members Edition, which are already discounted.

The rest of the budget may be selected by choice. We take advantage of sales from various book sellers, especially children's books. We accept donations of both hard cover books and paperbacks.

We have our books classified according to the Dewey Decimal System. We shelve Fiction according to authors, and Non-fiction according to Dewey classification. We have card-filed according to author, title and subject matter according to the Library of Congress for small libraries. We have plastic jacket covers on most of our books.

There have been many improvements since the City assumed ownership. Air conditioning and heat, a new roof, new florescent lights were a few additions. A dividing wall in the rear of the building was removed, making it possible for school children and younger children to have the back room and the *adults, the front room. We now have carpet on the floor too.

We have accomplished much by using volunteers for work here in the Library.

The circulation for 1982-83 was 18,858.

POSTSCRIPT TO THE HISTORY OF THE LIBRARY

The foregoing history of the Safety Harbor Library makes one realize what a monumental project this was for a comparatively small group of women to undertake. It can only be hoped that the City and its citizens appreciate the fact that not only did they see the need for a Library and determined to have one, but after building their own on land donated by Dr. Salem Baranoff, continued to operate and maintain it until such time, hopefully, October 1, 1980, the City assumes full responsibility for providing library service for the citizens of Safety Harbor.

Taking into consideration that the Women's Civic Club has given the Library and its complete contents to the City, it has acquired a good building in a well-situated area and with potential for expansion when deemed necessary at no cost to taxpayers.

Personal feelings are that at this time, library service is adequate. There are approximately 15,000 books in all categories. The main room is divided into sections for juveniles ages 4-12, young people ages 12-16 and adults. There is also a section for reference material and another for literature, plus a reading area where periodicals and paper back books are kept.

Since funding by the City in the amount of $8,000 a year for two years from October, 1978 through September, 1980, many capital improvements have been made, namely a heating and cooling system, insulation, work bench area, office for Administrator and Treasurer, some new shelving, janitor service has been provided and the Librarian and her assistant receive a minimum wage.

A nominal fee of $1.00 per family for residents of the City and $3.00 for those patrons residing outside of the city has been in effect for some time.

Safety Harbor is a small city and due to its limited area, will probably never be a large metropolis. So, with room for building expansion when a larger library with more sophisticated services are required, there should be no problem in making necessary changes as needed.

It is my sincere hope that the transition from sponsorship by the Womens Civic Club to the City will go smoothly and that the Library will continue to grow and improve as time goes on.

In Memorium

Blanche L. Weagraff

No doubt, most of you know that Blanche Weagraff died March 18, 1982 and funeral services were held for her at the First United Methodist Church on March 22nd.

Blanche was the last remaining Charter Member of the Women's Civic Club of Safety Harbor and was made an honorary member in 1976.

She was selected as the second full-time Librarian in 1943 and remained serving in this capacity until 1956. She was truly dedicated to her work and set up the system by which the Library functioned and which remained in use as long as the Women's Club sponsored the Public Library. When library funds had been exhausted and there was no money to pay the meager salary for which she worked, she just kept it open anyway.

At the end of her history of the Library-covering years from 1938 through 1956, she describes her thirteen years of devotion to the Library as "a labor of love."

One feels that this was true of most of her activities in her church work down through the years, in her participation in Women's Civic Club activities and in her always having time to extend a helping hand whenever and wherever needed.

For the past several years, she had been somewhat incapacitated, however, she continued to do what she could for her church and spent many, many hours making children's clothing for the missionary bundles.

Always cheerful and with a good sense of humor, she was a truly fine person whose memory will live on.

L. Parker

Sarasota County Library System

Six community libraries and a Bookmobile make up the Sarasota County Library System. The history of each library demonstrates that citizens of Sarasota County have worked together to maintain the quality of life long before the libraries became a part of Sarasota County Government. From the first library, which was established in 1907 by the Sarasota Town Improvement Society, to the newest in Jacaranda, county libraries have been established in response to community demands and needs.

The first libraries were autonomous with the Head Librarians reporting directly to the County Administrator. Sarasota Public Library was managed by Betty Service, the Englewood library by Harriet Ives, and Venice by Jean McGuire. These libraries were in place when Joan Hopkins was hired in 1974 to take over the Sarasota library and be Coordinator of the Libraries. In 1979 she was given the title of Libraries Director and took on the job of forming an integrated library system. This was done not only to qualify for state aid, but also to standardize and improve service throughout the county. During her 23 years with Sarasota County Libraries, Joan Hopkins directed and coordinated library services for the rapidly growing population. She directed the establishment of Gulf Gate Public Library, North Port Public Library, Frances T. Bourne, Jacaranda Public Library and the new downtown Sarasota library, and laid the groundwork for building future libraries in the county. She also lead the libraries into the information age making Sarasota County Public Libraries one of the first in southwest Florida to have an automated library system for card catalog, circulation and technical services. She retired in March 1997 and continues to serve on the Library Advisory Board. Shirley Amore took over as Libraries Director in October 1998. She has several years of library experience, the most recent being Head of the main library in Broward County.

SELBY PUBLIC LIBRARY 1907

The first library in Sarasota County was established in 1907 by the Town Improvement society to improve the quality of life in the community They started this library in a room at Five Points with a fund of $65. It started with donated books and 51 subscribers. The Woman's Club took over the library in 1913 and in April 1915 moved it to the east wing of the Women's Club. Also in April the Sarasota City Council appropriated $150 a year to locate the library in the old schoolhouse on Main Street rent free for five years. In 1940 the Women's Club requested that the city take complete control of the library. The city moved it to 701 N. Tamiami Trail. As more people moved into the county by the mid 1970's, the growing need for additional books and materials was evident. The library moved to the Boulevard of the Arts site on June 24, 1976, and Sarasota County Government took over its operation. The Selby Library got its name after a single contribution of $500,000 from the William G. and Marie Selby Foundation. Today, the Selby Public Library is the largest in the Sarasota County Library system with holdings of 235,941 volumes. It serves a population area of 141,255.

ELSIE QUIRK PUBLIC LIBRARY 1962-

In the late 1950's, members of the Lemon Bay Women's Club and residents began collecting books and gathering support to open a bi-county public library. In 1962, there were no free public libraries in Sarasota County; a charge of $4.00 was levied for any county citizen who wished to use the City of Sarasota Library. With money and land donated by the Quirk family, Elsie Quirk Library opened in 1962 to serve the Sarasota County residents of Englewood. A campaign led by Lois Potter and Leah Lasbury resulted In Elsie Quirk library's receiving the first

Sarasota County tax dollar support for a library. Today, the library serves approximately 20,279 residents with a collection of 66,884 items.

BOOKMOBILE 1962

The Bookmobile originated in 1962. It traveled as far north as DeSota Road and south to Englewood. In 1977 the Bookmobile was replaced with a larger truck that carried approximately 3300 items. The Bookmobile serviced about 21 stops and served mostly senior citizens. During the holidays and summer vacations. circulation of children's materials increased and proved there was a need to purchase more materials for a children's collection. As more families moved to the community and the demand for more books and services increased. it was evident that a larger vehicle was needed. The community got that wish in 1991 when a 50 foot tractor-trailer was purchased to house more materials The Bookmobile currently carries over 6000 items and has 24 weekly stops throughout the county from DeSota Road to Osprey. The collection includes popular fiction, a greatly expanded juvenile collection, and a separate young adult section. In addition, the collection includes a parenting section, a Florida section, and a collection of audio books.

VENICE PUBLIC LIBRARY 1965

When the Venice-Nokomis Women's Club library outgrew its space, Venice citizens, including author Walter Farley and his wife Rosemarie, formed the Friends of the Venice Library. After three years, with land from the City of Venice, contributions from individuals, organizations, businesses and foundations, plus a proposal from the County to contribute to operating expenses, the organization had enough resources to start building an 8000 square foot public library. The library opened its doors at 300 S. Nokomis Avenue on October 4, 1965. The Friends operated the library with financial support from Sarasota County until 1977 when it became part of the Sarasota County Library System. In 1979, the Friends and the County funded a 10,000 square foot addition to accommodate the growing community. The Friends added another 800 square feet in 1984. The additions proved that the library was needed and well received by the community. In 1993, a 6000 square foot expansion, funded half by the community and half by the County, was completed. The 24,800 square foot library located in the downtown City of Venice currently houses some 105,385 volumes and serves a population of 51,104.

GULF GATE LIBRARY 1973-

The Gulf Gate Library was established after the Bookmobile could no longer accommodate all of the needs and demands of the community. Gulf Gate Library opened with a collection of 4,000 volumes on November 5, 1973, in a 1500 square foot storefront location on Gateway Avenue. Named originally for a Sarasota Librarian, it was called the Betty Service Branch. The new library was so successful that it quickly outgrew its quarters and in November 1978 moved to a double storefront on Gulf Gate Drive. Within a few years it became obvious that larger library quarters were needed in the Gulf Gate community. After Leslie Shoemaker donated land in memory of his wife, a dedicated group of friends began a fundraising campaign. The campaign paid off and the new library was opened and dedicated on December 5, 1985. Today, over 200 volunteers help staff the Gulf Gate Library that houses 80,436 volumes and serves a population of 88,370.

NORTH PORT PUBLIC LIBRARY 1975-

The first library in North Port was founded in 1975 by the Friends of the North Port Area Library, an organization formed by the North Port Women's Club. The Friends purchased a house that originally stood on the site of the present 12,400 sq. ft. structure. Operating the library with volunteers, the Friends applied to the Sarasota County Libraries Department in 1976 to become part of the Sarasota County Libraries Department. Later they raised funds for an addition to the original facility. The North Port Library was the first project built with the one-cent sales tax passed by the citizens of Sarasota County for capital improvements. The Friends of the Library Enhancement Fund Task Force raised nearly $200,000 to help furnish the new library in an effort to provide North Port with a modern facility. The North Port Library currently houses 53,906 volumes serves a population of 27,260.

FRANCES T. BOURNE JACANDA PUBLIC LIBRARY 1994-

The need to establish a new branch in east Venice was foreseen in the mid- 1980's Sarasota County voters approved a one-cent optional sales tax levy in 1989. A ten year library Capital improvement program was developed that called for such a library to be built in 1994-95. When it was discovered that the County already owned appropriate acreage on Jacaranda Boulevard north of U.S. 41, the project was moved ahead of schedule. The 12,500 square foot library opened January 25, 1994. It was rededicated and renamed in 1995 after the Friends of Jacaranda Library founder and President Frances T. Bourne. Frances Bourne was a library advocate who also served as chair of Sarasota County's Library Advisory Board. The newest library of Sarasota County has a popular circulating collection with a high demand for fiction, mysteries. biographies videos, and audio books. Its 30 foot clerestory windows provide an open view in this modem architectural structure. It houses 44,955 volumes and serves a population of 35,709.

Seminole Community Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

The Seminole Community Library has progressed immensely since its founding nearly forty years ago. As with many public libraries, it began as a civic project of interested and dedicated community leaders and has grown into a strongly supported cultural showcase in the greater Seminole area.

The library was established with about 3,500 books on July 12, 1960, by the Seminole Ridge Business and Professional Women's Club and was first housed in a small cottage provided by the Seminole Branch of Home Federal Savings and Loan of St. Petersburg. The "cottage library" was staffed by club members and located behind the Savings and Loan office near the corner of Seminole Blvd. and Park Blvd. Lots of hard work and devoted volunteer service to the new library earned the club first prize in the St. Petersburg Times' Women's Club of the Year contest.

Rapid growth in the following years made it necessary for the library to have a separate operating organization as well as a larger building. In June 1964, with the collection having grown to some 6,000 volumes, the Women's Club turned over operation of the library to a newly formed Friends of the Library group which later developed into the state-chartered Seminole Ridge Library Association. The following year Home Federal Savings and Loan again came to the rescue and offered additional space in a newly acquired motor court on Lake Drive, just north of the old library cottage. On November 10, 1965, library service began in the new facilities. Under the capable leadership of library volunteers and supporters, including numerous civic groups and local businesses, the library thrived.

By 1969 the collection had increased to about 10,000 volumes and shelf space again grew tight. The widening of Seminole Blvd. (U.S. Alternate 19) also required vacating the building on relatively short notice. These two developments triggered another phase of growth for the Seminole Library.

The greater Seminole community joined in a far-reaching civic and cultural project that included donation of land for a new library facility; architectural plans for a building with a capacity of 50,000 volumes and construction supervision, provided gratis; a petition drive that persuaded the Pinellas County Commission to part with $25,000 from a library tax fund that had never been implemented; and $15,000 in cash donations from civic organizations, businesses, individuals, and families.

In September 1970, a formal ground-breaking ceremony for the new library building was held with local dignitaries and many citizens attending. The new library, located at 11000 Johnson Blvd., opened for service on February 15, 1971, with 2,400 square feet, a collection of 15,000 volumes, and new furniture donated by the Pinellas- Seminole Woman's Club. The design and furnishings were intended to give the new library a warm, informal atmosphere, and its popularity in the years following demonstrated its inviting presence in the community.

In 1974, with a collection of about 19,000 volumes, a $10,000 addition was completed and served as a reading and reference room. In the spring of 1984, extensive remodeling was done to enclose the children's area and provide additional shelving for children's books and audio tapes. The following years saw expansion of the large print collection, the start of audio book and video collections, and the addition of a financial news section.

In 1989, after years of negotiations, the City of Seminole assumed responsibility for the library. The Seminole Library Association was dissolved and all assets turned over to the City. A five member Library Board was appointed and charged with the writing of a $400,000 State Grant application for a new library building. The grant was approved, consultants, architects, and contractors hired, and construction began on a new facility in November 1991. It was also during this productive and busy period that the library became a member of the newly formed Pinellas Public Library Cooperative and the Tampa Bay Library Consortium. The new Seminole Community Library officially opened to the public on August 3, 1992. The library's 17,000 square feet includes three spacious meeting rooms.

Since beginning this new chapter in its history, the Seminole Community Library has continued to grow in its collection, services, and programs. The book collection, magazine and newspaper subscriptions, and audio-visual materials are at an all-time high. Public access to the Internet, the World Wide Web, and other electronic reference sources are provided. Programs and activities for children and adults are offered throughout the year. In addition to its staff, the library is supported by a dedicated corps of volunteers, an active Friends of the Library organization, and a Library Advisory Board.

The Seminole Community Library continues to serve the people of the greater Seminole area and will celebrate its 40th anniversary in the year 2000.

Seminole County Public Library System

1972 STRAW BALLOT HELD in which voters approved the establishment of countywide public library service as a function of county government. The League of Women Voters spearheaded this effort.

1975 COUNTYWIDE LIBRARY SERVICE INITIATED in Seminole County through contract with Orlando Public Library to operate branches in Casselberry and Sanford and to provide bookmobile service. Numerous other services were available through Orlando Public.

1978 CREATION OF THE SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM and termination of the Seminole County contract with Orlando. Casselberry Branch was expanded, a Bookmobile program, Administrative unit and Technical Support unit were established.

1979-80 APPOINTMENT OF SEVEN MEMBER LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD to provide citizen input into library development.

ESTABLISHMENT OF FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY as a non-profit organization to provide financial and other support to the library system.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONAL PERIOD: structure, policies and procedures, and services developed.

1981 PREPARATION OF A LONG RANGE PLAN FOR LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT by HBW & Associates, Library Consultants, Dallas, Texas, which has been used as the basis for continued library development.

APPOINTMENT OF A CITIZEN REFERENDUM STUDY COMMITTEE to make recommendations to the Board of County Commissioners regarding implementation of the Long Range Plan. Committee recommended citizens be given the opportunity to vote on the issue of library expansion.

1982 REFERENDUM HELD in which voters approved expansion of the Public Library System by issuance of $7,000,000 in Library Bonds.

SENIORS PLUS BOOKS-BY-MAIL PROGRAM INITIATED to serve citizens over 65, and those unable to travel to branch libraries. Federal Funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

1983 PHASE I OFTHE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT INITIATED via contract with SOLINET/OCLC (Southeastern Library Network/On-line Computer Library Consortium) for cataloging and interlibrary loan of materials. Federal funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

SANFORD LIBRARY ON FIRST STREET RENOVATED with State Construction Grant.

1984-85 SALE OF $7 MILLION DOLLARS IN LIBRARY BONDS

LIBRARY STAFF AND LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD COORDINATED preparation of building programs, land acquisition, general planning for the construction project.

RETROSPECTIVE CONVERSION OF LIBRARY COLLECTION COMPLETE by library staff (in-house) as part of Phase 11, Library Automation Project. Federal Funding provided through Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA).

1986-87 CONSTRUCTION OF FIVE (5) NEW LIBRARY FACILITIES and renovation of one (1) existing facility in Sanford. Revised 10/13/93

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL OF LIBRARY Schedule including staff I III; levels, personnel costs, operating and capital budgets for new library facilities.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTED TO TERMINATE VIDEOCASSETTE PROGRAM upon opening of new libraries.

1987-88 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ADOPTED STANDARD OF ONE (1) BOOK PER CAPITA in the Capital Improvements Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Standard excludes (the 30,000+ population of Altamonte Springs. Library element is optional, not mandatory.

RECRUITED, HIRED AND TRAINED PERSONNEL for Five (5) New Library Facilities which opened between December, 1987 and May, 1988. All libraries are open for service to the public 58 hours per week.

PHASE 11 OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETED when the installation of the Library's Computer System for tracking materials in circulation and patron registration became operational in all libraries.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS VOTES AGAINST ESTABLISHMENT OF A LIBRARY IMPACT FEE to fund library growth.

1989 PHASE III OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT INITIATED with addition of Materials Purchasing module. (The On-line Catalogs for public use are planned for implementation in FY 92/93 pending availability of funding.)

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS REJECTS LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD REQUEST for re-establishment of a Videocassette Service based on continued public demand.

1990 SEMINOLE COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM RECEIVES A DESIGNATION through Congressman Bill McCollum as a Federal Depository for selected U.S. Government Documents. Documents Room opened at the Central Branch Library in March 1990.

LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD RECOMMENDS AN INCREASE OF COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT PLAN standard to 1.5 books per capita. Standard to be achieved over a 10 year period (1991-2000). Library Advisory Board also recommends that the Board of County Commissioners reconsider establishment of a Library Impact Fee to help fund this increase.

1991 BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS APPROVE LIBRARY IMPACT FEE of $54.00 per residential dwelling unit to be effective June 1, 1991.

LIBRARY ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN approved by the Board of County Commissioners. Level of Service of one book per capita retained.

1992 LIBRARY/DAY CARE CONNECTION program implemented with a Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant award of $30,000.

1993 SECOND YEAR OF LIBRARY/DAY CARE CONNECTION program funded with $43,411 LSCA federal grant.

PHASE III OF THE LIBRARY AUTOMATION PROJECT COMPLETED With the installation of (the Public Access Catalog (PAC) in June. Future improvements to PAC are planned to include on-line magazine indexes and access to other library catalogs.

INITIATE DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ANALYSIS and Collection Development Plan.

1994 NACO LIBRARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD (National Association of Counties) was given to Seminole County for the Library/Day Dare Connection program.

LIBRARY HOURS INCREASED from 58 to 64 per week due to efficiency gains from automation program.

ELECTRONIC NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (ENS) for overdue and reserved materials initiated. ENS provides $25,000 annual savings.

MIDWAY OUTREACH program initiated to provide training to volunteers who will work with children in the community on early reading skill development.

1995 COMMUNITY RESOURCES INFORMATION added to the Library Computer System. Information on clubs and organizations, library programs and other County activities available on-line at all library terminals. Program funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

MAGAZINE AND NEWSPAPER INDEXES AND INVENTORY added to the Library Computer System. Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and a complete inventory of the library system's periodical holdings available on-line at all library terminals. Project was funded with a $70,000 federal grant from the Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant.

ORLANDO SENTINEL CD ROM database installed for use at the Central Branch Library. A multimedia searchable database going back 11 years available to the public at a computer workstation. Program funded by a gift from the Friends of the Library.

RECEIPT PRINTERS AND SOFTWARE INSTALLED at all circulation terminals to provide users with printed receipt of materials checked out. Project funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

SUNDAY HOURS BEGIN in April at all five library branches.

SPANISH LANGUAGE COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT GRANT AWARDED to Library. Federal funding provided to purchase adult and children's Spanish language books.

1996 SEMINOLE COUNTY HOMEPAGE CREATED on World Wide Web.

LIMITED INTERNET ACCESS PROJECT INITIATED, giving professional staff access to references resources on the Internet. Project done in cooperation with Central Florida Library Cooperative. Internet Access allowed all five libraries access to reference and government publications previously only available at the Government Documents Room in Central Branch. As a result, the division was able to close the Gov't. Documents Room in October, 1995 and reorganize operations at a savings of $40,55 1. Capital equipment funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library. Capital equipment funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library.

BCC APPROVED SEMINOLE ON LINE (SOL) PROJECT to provide full Internet access to citizens at all county library terminals. Capital equipment partially funded through a gift from the Friends of the Library, as well as a federal Library Services and Construction Act (LSCA) grant.

1997 LIBRARY STRATEGIC PLAN 1996-2000 presented to the Board of County Commissioners (BCC). The BCC approved a graduated increase in the collection size standard from 1.0 to 1.5 books per capita, to be accomplished by 2005.

SEMINOLE ON LINE (SOL) PROJECT installed and operational 12/97.

1998 BCC approved renaming the Central Branch Library the "Jean Rhein Central Branch Library" to recognize the founding director of the library system, who retired in December 1997. Building re-dedicated March 5, 1998.

Seminole Tribal Library System

The Seminole Tribe of Florida provides Community Libraries on five of the six Seminole Reservations. These are: Billy Osceola Memorial Library, Willie Frank Memorial Library, Dorothy Scott Osceola Memorial Library, Immokalee Reservation Library, and the Tampa Reservation Library.

Our libraries are public in nature with emphasis on Seminole and Florida material. Collections include 23,000 + titles, numerous periodicals, videos, CD-Roms, photo collections, tapes and 40 years of various news articles.

Library services to Tribal members were first introduced at the Brighton Day School in the 1940's. Mr. and Mrs. William Boehmer, from North Dakota, established the first book collection at the Day School. In 1985 under the leadership of Winifred Tiger, Director of Education, and her assistant Patricia Jagiel, great strides were taken to improve library services to the reservations. A professional librarian, Norman H. Tribbett was hired. Collections were updated, libraries were furnished in an attractive manner and staff members (Native Seminole) were hired.

In the past several years the library system has undertaken the task of updating and automating with the new technologies. These technologies include a fully automated card catalog, Internet services, and abstracting services on CD-Rom.

Our libraries serve 20,000 + patron visits yearly. We take pride in our summer library programs for children. Our libraries serve as research centers for both Tribal and non-tribal individuals.

Future library development includes new facilities on the Hollywood and Big Cypress Reservations and a new addition to the Brighton Library. Future library services include providing Internet service to all locations. The Big Cypress, Brighton and Immokalee libraries will have Distance Learning capabilities via cooperation with the new Florida Gulf Coast University. This will provide electronic university classes for Tribal members on the Immokalee, Big Cypress, and Brighton Reservations.

St. Johns County Public Library System

MAIN LIBRARY

The St. Augustine Free Library Association was founded in 1874, starting the oldest library in Florida. It was first housed in the U. S. Customs House (now Government House). In 1895 the Wilson family purchased the birthplace of Confederate General Edmund Kirby Smith on Aviles Street to use as a library. The house was given to the St. Augustine Library Association under trusteeship as long as the building was used for a library for the public. In January, 1976, a movement toward a county library system was led by the American Association of University Women, joined by the Junior Service League and others. In 1977, an ordinance was passed setting up a county system and appointing a five-member advisory board. A contract was signed in February, 1978 between the County Commission and The St. Augustine Library Association for use of the Aviles Street building as a main county library. On November 6, 1984, voters passed a county-wide referendum for 1 mill funding for one year to provide over one million dollars for the County Library System to include a new Main Library in St. Augustine. The dedication for the new and current Main Library building was held on February 14, 1987. The St. Augustine Historical Society took over the Aviles Street Building in 1989.

BARTRAM TRAIL BRANCH LIBRARY

The first branch for the northwest portion of St. Johns County was housed in a leased 1,000 square foot building adjacent to the Wesley Manor Retirement Community, and opened its doors to the public on March 17, 1985. The library was relocated to a 2,700 square foot store front space in the Julington Square Shopping center, which opened its doors to the public on August 19, 1990. This facility was later expanded to include the adjacent storefront space, totaling 3,300 square feet. As a result of the continued efforts of the northwest community and the support of the Board of County Commissioners, the current stand alone 10,000 square facility was opened on March 1, 1997

PONTE VEDRA BEACH BRANCH LIBRARY

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St. Lucie County Library System

Written and compiled by Susan B. Kilmer, Library Manager

April 1998

As early as 1903, a small group of citizens in Fort Pierce decided to create a reading room to be set up in the Community Hall, a building located on the site of the present electric power plant (South Indian River Drive).

Having no money, they approached churches, civic organizations (of which there were very few) and individuals to loan books for the enterprise which was manned by volunteer workers.

The second home of the "reading room" was in the Cobb Building at the foot of Avenue A (in Fort Pierce).

In 1913 the Women's Club residence was built and that organization volunteered to house and manage the "reading room." The Women's Club was the home of the "reading room" until 1950, when it was moved to an old house in the 7th Street Park owned by the City of Fort Pierce.

The St. Lucie County Library Association was founded in 1946 - the principal factor being a bequest by the late P. P. Cobb to the Women's Club for library purposes.

This organization started with $1,000 in the treasury. The first president was E. C. Collins and the head of the Finance Committee was Dan McCarty, under whose leadership a group of dedicated citizens raised $15,000 by door-to-door solicitation. The City of Fort Pierce donated two lots located on 2nd Street and Atlantic Avenue which were sold to the *News Tribune* for $8,250, making a grand total of $23,000 in the treasury.

Ground was broken in 1952 for the new building on the land given by the City of Fort Pierce to the Library Association. This land is the site where the Main Library currently resides. In 1954, the library was opened to the public with a professional librarian; but, no books and furniture.

The City of Fort Pierce and the Women's Club moved 1,000 books from the 7th Street Park building and a hard core of library friends went to work supplying enough furniture and material to permit operation of this institution. The Florida State Library loaned St. Lucie County 2,000 books to help open the library and donations of books and furniture were accumulating from church groups, civic organizations and individuals.

In 1958 a Stack Room was added to the building and the library started their Bookmobile Service (through Federal grant funding). Also, in 1958, the St. Lucie County Library Association entered into a contract with the Okeechobee County Commission to form a regional library system. There was one (1) library in each County, with the Fort Pierce facility being designated as the headquarters. The St. Lucie-Okeechobee Regional Library System, as it was called, was governed by a Board of Directors consisting of five (5) members from the Library Association and five (5) members appointed by the Okeechobee County Board of Commissioners.

In 1967 a "Big Addition" to the library was completed at a cost of $111,000: two-thirds of the funding came from Federal funds and City and County Commission each contributed $25,000. A dance was held to raise funding for furniture and equipment.

On December 7, 1970 the Lincoln Park Branch Library was opened in a building provided by the Fort Pierce Housing Authority. A federal grant was received which helped provide equipment and materials. When the site opened it had 2,000 catalogued books on the shelves ready for circulation. This facility lasted a very short time.

On December 1, 1971 the Port St. Lucie Branch Library was opened in a new building constructed and donated by General Development Corporation to St. Lucie County and the Regional Library Board. Funding for furniture and equipment was obtained through door-to-door solicitation as well as contributions from the City of Port St. Lucie, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners and the Library Association, as well as some State-Aid funds set aside by the Regional Board.

In 1972 the Regional•Board approved the purchase of a new bookmobile and the sale of the old vehicle. In May 1973 the new bookmobile went into service and a gala Open House was held to celebrate the library's 20th anniversary.

In 1977 several things happened. The St. Lucie-Okeechobee Regional Library System ceased to exist, with St. Lucie and Okeechobee County each assuming the responsibility for providing library service. The St. Lucie County Library System became a part of County government with all funding provided by that agency of local government. The County Commission authorized the establishment of a Library Advisory Board, the board consists of nine (9) members, six (6) appointed by the Board of County Commissioners and three (3) appointed by the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library.

In 1981 the Port St. Lucie Branch Library was expanded from 1500 square feet to 4500 square feet. Funding for this expansion came from the Board of County Commission, the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library and local fundraisers in Port St. Lucie.

Several mobile units were established in the 1980's to determine the need for additional library services. One unit was placed at 7508 Jennings Way (Lakewood Park) and another unit was placed at 606 North 29th Street (Fort Pierce). Both of these mobile units showed the need for additional library services and two new branch facilities were built.

In 1987 construction began on a 10,000 square foot building in Lakewood Park. The land was donated to the County by the Lakewood Park Homeowner's with a $1.00 lease. Library Services and Construction Act funding was obtained for the new library. The first new facility built in 18 years. The Friends of the Library donated $60,000 towards furniture and equipment for this facility which opened in late 1989.

Also in 1987 the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library purchased a piece of property on North 29th Street and Avenue D for the construction of a new library. The Friends donated this land to St. Lucie County with the stipulation that a new building would be built within rive (5) years or the land would be returned to the Friends of the Library. In 1991 ground was broken for the new Zora Neale Hurston Branch Library and it was opened in December 1991. This 5,200 square foot facility was designed to eventually become a 10,000 square foot facility. LSCA funds were also obtained for construction of this facility.

St. Lucie County took their first step in joint funding of a library facility with the construction of the Morningside Branch Library in Port St. Lucie. A grant was written by the St. Lucie County and the St. Lucie County School Board to obtain funding through a Community Education Facility grant to build a facility which would serve the public and the Middle School slated for construction on Morningside Boulevard. A grant of $792,892 was received for partial construction of this facility with the remaining funds coming from the Board of County Commissioners. The Friends of the St. Lucie County Library also contributed $40,000 towards equipment and furniture. This 20,000 square foot facility opened on January 2, 1993 with much support of local residents and kudos for such a wonderful facility.

In 1995 unique facility was opened in St. Lucie West. Indian River Community College built a library, which was being used temporarily as classrooms. An interlocal agreement was signed between IRCC and the Board of County Commissioners and IRCC also signed an interlocal agreement with Florida Atlantic University for library services. This is the first cooperative library of its kind in the State of Florida. St. Lucie County Library (through State Aid funding) pays for contracted services for staff and provides a popular reading collection and periodicals for the general public. The public now has the ability to access electronic databases, search the World Wide Web and have internet email accounts at this facility. We are on our way to the virtual "library without walls" with this facility.

1995 was the beginning of still another cooperative venture between the City of Fort Pierce, the St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners and the Friends of the St. Lucie County Library. Through a charrette held in January 1995 and the redevelopment plans for Downtown Fort Pierce, a new Branch Library concept began to take place. A grant was submitted in May 1995 with St. Lucie County being ranked number 2 in the State for their proposal with the outcome being a grant of $400,000. The new Branch facility should break ground during the summer of 1998 with the new site opening in the fall of 1999.

St. Pete Beach Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

"Library to Celebrate 30th Anniversary This Month"

(Article by Community Correspondent Virginia Sturges from the *Suncoast Sun* of April 30, 1981)

The sheet of notebook paper is yellow with age. The entry reads: "January, 1951: We have on hand one double-tiered bookcase which Mr. Woolsey made for us. Club paid for the material. Also have dater and stamp pad to begin with, paid for by the Club, plus 350 books donated by Mr. Clyde Wilbur, Mr. Curtis Wilbur and their sister, Mrs. E.A. Considine."

The report was written 30 years ago by Dorothy Heath, a member of the St. Petersburg Beach Community Club, who had volunteers to help set up a library.

This was the modest beginning of what we know today as the St. Petersburg Beach Public Library. The beautiful $200,000 facility will be holding a day-long open house on Wednesday, May 6, to celebrate its 30th birthday, with free coffee and doughnuts all afternoon and evening. Short award-winning films will also be shown throughout the day. Appropriately, the party will be held in the Dorothy Heath Conference Room.

There were only 30 members of the St. Petersburg Beach Community Club 30 years ago; the population of St. Petersburg Beach itself was only about 800, and excepting Pass-A-Grille, the little towns around it were not yet incorporated. The Club had been organized since the 1930's, and offered recreational services and performed civic duties. But the subject of a library had never come up. Not until that day when the Wilburs donated their 350 books.

The ladies pondered the problem. None of them had any library experience and there was no room in the little clubhouse for a library. But the challenge was there and they decided to tackle it.

"Have been to the Pinellas Park Library and watched how they check books in and out. Also to Mrs. Charles Haslam's," Mrs. Heath's report continues.

From Mrs. Haslam, who had set up the Pinellas Park Library in 1947, Mrs. Heath learned library procedures and the Dewey Decimal System. Another club member, Mrs. Goldie Schuster, donated the first $10 to buy the necessary 3" X 5" file cards. The file box was a cardboard shoe box.

A group of volunteers spent afternoons in the club kitchen, working at the tables with brown wrapping paper, cutting and labeling it to show the book title and author to make the card pockets for the back of the books (sic). Helen Norberg, Eleanor MacKenzie and Alice Moran were Mrs. Heath's chief assistants. Later, Julie Reitberg was to become an important volunteer.

"Mrs. Ernest Stern has loaned us her typewriter which we use in the library and also for work at home which I do on index cards. She has asked me to be responsible for it," Mrs. Heath notes carefully.

In those days, the St. Petersburg Beach Community Clubhouse was a small building on Blind Pass Road and 73rd Avenue, where the present library now stands. It was in a corner of that room where the Long Key Library, named after the island where it was located, opened its doors to the public for the first time in May, 1951, with 450 books on two shelves. The additional 100 books were from enthusiastic donors. Fifteen members signed up that month.

Dues were $.25 a year; out-of-towners paid $1 deposit which was returned to them when they left town.

To staff a library daily with a group of only 30 volunteers was not easy. Those dedicated workers at the beginning included Mrs. Heath, the Librarian, Eleanor MacKenzie, Melita Fieber, Helen and Betty Norberg, Kathryn Hance, Erma Goetz, Alice Moran and Catherine Meirs.

"Mrs. Schuster donated a sign to the library. Members working on books to be catalogued. Am doing work at home on index cards. Alice and Helen helping withe same," Mrs. Heath notes in September, 1951. "Seventy-two members have joined now."

The number of books grew as more and more donations were received. One person donated $5,000.

Beulah McCarthy started a Story Hour for the children on Saturdays; a former art and hobby teacher at the University of Maryland, she became known as "Miss Beulah" to the children. Mrs. Goldie Schuster bought and donated all the books that were used in the Story Hour.

Later, the Florida State Library Extension Service lent 200 adult and 200 children's books. The club continued to support the library, not only with their work but with funds for tables, chairs, magazine racks, shelves and a globe. The drapes hanging in the library today are a gift from the club, which still meets monthly, but now in the Upham Room of the Municipal Building.

The growth has never stopped: First, a little room added to the south end of the building in 1952 where the books were moved for the original shelves; another expansion in 1955 after municipal consolidation took place. At this time, the library was officially turned over to the City of St. Petersburg Beach, but then-Mayor Carlyle Manley requested the club to continue its supervision. Marge McFadden, the club's president, cut the ribbon on the new building. The number of books was now more than 4,000.

By 1964, there were 10,000 books; circulation was 60,000 for the year and membership totaled 1,100. Clearly, larger quarters were needed. The ladies again went into action.

Helen Weber organized the Friends of the Library, and fund raising began...eighteen hundred pancakes were sold at a flapjack jamboree. The First Gulf Beach Bank donated $1,000 and gave the City a loan, enabling it to meet requirements to match federal funds.

Ground was broken on in October, 1968, and while construction was underway, the Library continued operations from a store on Corey Avenue; during that year, 79,000 books were circulated.

On July 7, 1969, the new St. Petersburg Beach Public Library, as we know it today, opened for the first time.

With the new library established, Dorothy Heath could at last retire with a clear conscience, knowing a job well done. William Barnett replaced her, and remains in charge today, with five assistants. Ruth White, who started as a volunteer in the early days, is still there and was recently honored with a Distinguished Service Award from the City.

The growth continues: today the library has 35,000 volumes and 4,600 members. Circulation last year was 140,000 books. National Geographic film programs are presented monthly, and Operation Outreach takes these films to nursing homes. There are summer reading programs for children, and vocational guidance for adults.

Was the new opening in 1969 as exciting as the first opening in 1951? "Goodness, no," says veteran volunteer Helen Norberg. "Remember, if we hadn't planted that little acorn in 1951, we wouldn't have this giant oak tree today. I felt children and older people had great need of a library. I said then and I say it again: "What have you done for the least of these My brethren, you have also done it for Me."

It is dedication like this that explains the success of the library. The public is urged to join them for the 30th birthday party on May 6.

UPDATE: Head Librarian William Barnett retired in June, 1994, and was immediately succeeded by St. Pete Beach native and former library patron Roberta Whipple (nee Lamb). The library was closed for five months---April through September---in 1995, for a renovation of all public areas of the building's interior. For more information on the refurbishment project and a description of how the library looks today, see the section called "St. Pete Beach's Best Kept Secret" under "If You're From Out-of-Town"...

Suwannee River Regional Library

JANUARY, 1958 - APRIL, 1998

Settlement in what was to become Suwannee County began in 1827. During the years from 1845, when Florida became a state, until 1858, Suwannee County had been a part of four different counties, Alachua, Columbia, Duval and St. Johns. On December 21, 1858 an act was signed by the Florida Legislature that brought Suwannee County into being. With county boundaries established on three sides by the famous-in-song Suwannee River, this area is known as the Heart of the Suwannee River Country.

Live Oak was designated as county seat of Suwannee by the State Legislature in 1868 and was incorporated on April 24, 1878. In 1903 the Town of Live Oak became the City of Live Oak, site of the only and present headquarters for the Suwannee River Regional Library System.

Early development of libraries in the State of Florida originated with a reading room located in St. Augustine.

A small town library was in operation in Live Oak for a number of years until the early 1940's, financed by an almost negligible $25 per month County appropriation. It was housed in a wooden structure on the corner of Pine and Wilbur Streets, which was originally the City's public restrooms for white women. With the demolition of that building there was no home for the library.

In 1948 the Board of County Commissioners included a library annex in its County building expansion program. A new brick building was erected to provide facilities for these varied services: a public restroom for white women; a draft board office; and a library. Some book shelves were built and the remnants of the old library were moved to the new location in 1950. There the matter stopped.

There have always been citizens of Suwannee County who were willing to shoulder the task of securing cultural, educational and civic projects for the benefit of everyone. Historically, women's clubs have spearheaded many of these endeavors, and this story of the development of public libraries is no exception.

The local Draft Board occupied the annex until the fall of 1954 when the Woman's Club of Live Oak adopted the project of a reactivated, well-equipped library system with ultimate county-wide service. According to available records, the draft board and the library shared the same quarters and were staffed by the same personnel.

Mrs. Winston (Sara) Rogers was appointed Chairman of the Library Project Committee, which frequently visited County Commission and City Council meetings to secure endorsement of a library project with viable funding.

At the beginning of the fiscal year, October 1954, the County Commissioners assigned one-half mill of the County budget to the operation of a Suwannee County Free Library. The City Council followed this lead with a $500 annual appropriation. This netted approximately $5,000 for the first year's operation: not enough, perhaps, to work wonders, but substantially a far cry from the $25 per month of a decade earlier.

Thus the dreams and dedicated resolve of many citizens culminated in the creation of what would become in January, 1958, the first regional library system to be established in the State of Florida, with services to Lafayette and Suwannee counties.

One of the first moves of the new Library Board, duly appointed by the Governor of Florida at the request of the County Commissioners, was to move the Draft Board out of the library annex. They borrowed some books from the State Library, painted their one-room space, built shelves, and opened the library on February 28, 1955. The library started from a small collection of 3,100 books which contained a variety of reading materials available in its lending program.

Since the Board did not have the budget at their disposal to procure the services of a professionally trained librarian, Mrs. Rogers resigned as Chairman of the Woman's Club Library Project Committee and in January 1955 accepted the position as librarian. Soon the Board visualized a new library in Branford, and that branch library celebrated open house on January 13, 1956.

Total estimated Suwannee County receipts for salaries and books was $6,312.75 in the fiscal year ending 1956. For a few years the City of Live Oak continued to furnish $500 a year to the Library Fund.

On April 6, 1956 Mrs. Rogers resigned to become postmistress, and on March 15, 1957 Mrs. W. D. Richardson succeeded her. A consultant from the State Library was loaned to the library to administer the region until a head librarian could be found.

It is often difficult for a small rural community to provide adequate library service for all its people; but when a small community goes into partnership with a larger community, or many communities, the benefits of cooperation are realized. Regional library operation is a demonstration of the motto that, "In Unity There is Strength".

The Suwannee River Regional Library, a pilot cooperative library concept, materialized when Congress passed the Library Services Act in June 1956. Efforts were begun by the local library board to meet the minimum requirements established by the State Library Board for participation in the federal funds program.

In 1957 an adjustment was made in the formula, and by evaluating their building and other services provided by the county, the local Library Board found that they would be considered for a grant if they joined with another county. The Suwannee Board was able to convince the Mayo Woman's Club in Lafayette County to have their county join with Suwannee County and organize the first library region in Florida. The Mayo group of women convinced their commissioners to get the project on the budget agenda for the fiscal year 1958, and a small library was established at Mayo in Lafayette County in October 1957.

With the formation of the duo-county, Suwannee-Lafayette Library Region, $28,224 in funds immediately became available. A one-half mill assessment by each county produced $9,595, and this sum was matched by an $18,629 federal grant.

The 3,100 book collection rapidly grew to some 10,000 titles, some loaned from the State Library. A bookmobile was ordered and put on the road. By September of 1958 each of the counties had appropriated money for the next year's operation, and in September, 1958 Henry J. Blasick was on duty as the first Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library System. The second and final year of the grant was about to begin.

After operating in these two counties for a year, the organization was approached by a number of adjoining counties interested in the project, and in 1959 Columbia, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Madison and Taylor counties qualified for membership and became a part of the system. The Suwannee County library in Live Oak has served as headquarters since the establishment of the Suwannee River Regional Library System.

No town had a population of over 10,000. There was a new junior college in Madison but no other college or university in the area, which then had a total population of 75,695.

The next step was to organize the region and get ready for service at the beginning of the new fiscal year on October 1, 1959. Established as a regional library cooperative, the seven county boards each signed a regional library contract, as well as signing an individual contract with the State Library when it received its rural development grant funds. The Regional Board employed the head librarian and approved his employment of the rest of the staff.

A history-making event for Florida libraries took place in Live Oak on Monday, July 20, 1959, when the Suwannee River Regional Library Board was host to the incoming boards of the five counties who officially joined the region on October 1, 1959. The Suwannee River Regional Library had forged its way ahead in rural library development, soon leading Florida, and receiving national recognition for its rapid and sound progress.

Suwannee and Lafayette counties had completed their rural development grant periods, but each would receive a small bonus for bringing other counties into the program. Altogether, for 1959-60, the local libraries would provide $36,094 and the rural development grants would bring $38,997 to the area.

Each county had a five-member board, comprising the 35-member full Regional Library Board. They met quarterly, rotating their meetings from one place to another. Normal attendance was 23 to 25 members. Matters of policy and overall procedure were of concern to this group. Details for any county were taken up on the county level and any county board met on call. Librarian Henry J. Blasick attended all county and regional meetings. Fred Andrews, Assistant Director from July 1, 1959 to August 31, 1961, served as Secretary to the Board.

Five communities, Greenville, Jasper, Lake City, Madison and Perry had small libraries operated by women's clubs. Gilchrist, Hamilton and Lafayette counties had no public library within their boundaries. Columbia and Taylor counties had very small popular-donation Woman's Club libraries with no visible support. The Madison County Commission provided less than $1,000 per annum to be divided among the two small libraries at Madison and Greenville. Only Suwannee had made real effort toward library support.

The regional branches continued in the same facilities in Greenville and Perry with additional space for more books.

The Madison and Mayo libraries were located in former jails donated by each county. They were freshly painted and furnished. Exhibited prominently in the Madison library was the old key to the jailhouse door with the legend: "The Key to Captivity is now the Key to Enlightenment".

The old police station building in Lake City was converted through volunteer labor and donated building materials into an attractive library. With donations, volunteers remodeled a storage area in Jasper to provide library space.

The Branford Library was in the public health building, where it remains today, pending a long-awaited move into their brand new library, under construction and scheduled for completion in September 1998.

The city administration at Trenton remodeled what had been an annex of the Trenton Fire Department building to house the Gilchrist County Library.

Of special significance at this time in the history of the Suwannee River Regional Library was the earned distinction as a recipient of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Award. This $1,000 award by the Book-of-the-Month Club was a memorial given in honor of the author. The Suwannee River Regional Library was one of eight rural libraries in the nation, and the only one in the South, to qualify and receive this honor in April, 1960.

This award, along with U. S. Congressman D. R. (Billy) Matthew's congratulatory address in Congress, focused attention on the Suwannee River Regional Library organization's outstanding work among the libraries of the nation. Several obscure libraries in North Florida had been parlayed into a system which received nationwide honors during National Library Week.

At this time the regional library system consisted of eight local units and the main library at Live Oak, with thousands of volumes in their collections, and two bookmobiles bringing library service to rural areas of the counties. The system, which had started with 3,100 books in 1957, now had 23,500, 3,000 of which were a gift from the Miami Public Library.

On August 2, 1960 Dixie County, the last one to be invited to join in, became a member of the Suwannee River Regional Library, making it an eight-county system. The Cross City library observed its official opening December 1, 1960.

When he resigned on August 31, 1961 Henry J. Blasick, the first Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library, had taken the original two-county regional system and built it into an eight-county region distributing over a quarter million books annually. At the same time the Assistant Director, Fred Andrews, resigned to enter the Army.

Mr. S. L. (Sim) Townsend, member of the Gilchrist County Library Board, served as Acting Director from August 31, 1961 to November 20, 1961, until Miss Elizabeth Ball assumed duties as Director.

On July 18, 1968 the Suwannee River Regional Library adopted a memorial resolution in honor of Mr. Townsend, who served on the Library Board from October, 1959 until his death on May 2, 1968. Records show that Mr. Townsend, whose library and civic honors included the American Library Association's "Outstanding Trustee Award", was among the first persons to provide leadership necessary to put the system on a firm foundation. Mr. Townsend saw the Suwannee River Regional Library develop from birth through its early stages of growth. Having retired some years before 1959, Mr. Townsend, with his pleasant but determined and efficient demeanor, was able to bridge gaps and open doors in order to set the system in operation.

Miss Elizabeth Ball became Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library on November 20, 1961 and served until April of 1967. She came to Live Oak from Washington, North Carolina, where she had headed a regional library for two and a half years.

Taylor County withdrew from the Regional Library System on September 30, 1961 by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners of Taylor County on recommendation of the Taylor County Library Board. The Board had determined that it was in the best interest of Taylor County to operate the library system independent of any regional library association.

On December 4th of that year the Florida Budget Commission voted the first release of $284,544 of the $500,000 appropriated by the 1961 Legislature for State Aid to Public Libraries.

This was an important milestone in public library development, as Florida was the last of the southeastern states to accept the public library as a state responsibility, and provide funding for this vital community service.

The Suwannee River Regional Library, including Gilchrist County, received $23,152, which was badly needed for bookmobile and other operating expenses, since the two-year Federal aid had now expired.

On March 5, 1962 a Regional Contract and Agreement was signed by Columbia, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Lafayette, Madison and Suwannee counties. Nine libraries and two bookmobiles were now serving the seven-county system.

On June 27, 1963 Miss Ball announced that the region had added a third bookmobile to its fleet, a purchase made possible by funds received from State Aid to Libraries.

The existing library in Live Oak had no large reading room and inadequate space to serve large numbers of Suwannee County school pupils. In 1966 Suwannee County razed a public restroom on the courthouse square to accommodate an expanded, air-conditioned library. A two-story wing between the old library and the courthouse provided what was then modernistic facilities for the headquarters office.

At this time the system had nine libraries serving a population of 67,133 in an area covering 4,249 square miles. The collection consisted of 73,243 volumes which had a circulation of 316,828 in the 1964/65 fiscal year. Two operating bookmobiles and an additional one used as a reserve vehicle circulated library materials to all the rural communities in the system.

On October 30, 1966 the new Suwannee County Regional Library at 207 Pine Avenue was dedicated. This was a joint project, with Suwannee County bearing 45% of the cost and the federal government providing the remaining 55%. Total cost of the project, which actually came in at $97,000, had been estimated at approximately $80,000.

Fred Andrews, a former Assistant Director of the Suwannee River Regional Library from 1959 to 1961, assumed duties in April, 1967 when Miss Elizabeth Ball resigned to accept a position with a library in North Carolina.

Mr. Andrews graduated from Madison High School in 1955 and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Library Science from Florida State University in 1959. He then came to Live Oak, where he was assistant to Henry Blasick for two years, before entering the Army in 1961. He was stationed most of his two years in the military service in Alaska. Following his release from the Army in 1963, Andrews accepted a position as Director of Clay County Libraries prior to his employment here.

When he resigned as Director at the end of the fiscal year 1976 the nine-library, seven-county system enjoyed annual circulation of 344,331 items, with expenditures totaling $162,717.

The Suwannee River Regional Library had been in existence over eighteen years when John D. (Danny) Hales, Jr. became the Director of Libraries on November 1, 1976, a position which he continues to hold today in 1998.

The growth and successes of the Suwannee River Regional Library during his 21-year tenure have been no less outstanding than were those of the first eighteen years.

Raised in the small town of Fulton, Kentucky, Danny Hales attended the University of Kentucky, where he lettered in track and cross-country and worked part-time as a reference assistant at the main library. He graduated with a B.S. Degree in Accounting in 1971, and in 1973 entered the College of Library Science at the University in pursuit of his Masters. Upon graduation he elected to work in Jacksonville, Florida as Business Librarian in the public library there from April 1974 to November 1976, when he was selected as the Suwannee River Regional Library Director.

A reorganization study was undertaken in 1977-78, but local funds and commitment were not dedicated to implementation.

In 1978 the Columbia County Public Library was constructed under the guidance of Mrs. Eileen Brunner, and in 1979 Columbia withdrew from the Suwannee River Regional Library to become a single-county system.

The Mail-A-Book lending service, offered for the first time in North Central Florida in 1981, replaced the Bookmobile service. In the beginning catalogs were mailed to over 9,500 households in Suwannee, Hamilton and Lafayette counties, followed two weeks later with 9,000 more catalogs being mailed to Madison, Dixie and Gilchrist county residents.

Financed by a $53,000 federal grant provided under the Library Services and Construction Act, it was designed to save energy and make library books more accessible to rural and homebound residents. There was no cost to the subscriber and no fines were assessed.

Supported with local help and donations, the new Lafayette County Library was constructed in 1982. It opened its doors to the public in January 1983, with a formal dedication ceremony on April 10, 1983.

Passage of a bill in early 1983 enabled regional libraries to reorganize using state funds. The Suwannee River Regional Library made plans to centralize many of its functions, using the

$75,000 they would receive in fiscal year 1984. An initial per capita membership fee of $0.88 was set for fiscal year 1986 to provide equalization of support for regional administrative services.

The per capita fee increased periodically to $1.12 for fiscal year 1993. It was replaced in 1993/94 by a smaller "token" contribution, when significant new regional funds were received from State Library to cover regional expenses.

On Monday, March 20, 1986, the Live Oak Library blipped into the modern age when its new Dynix computer went online after two years of preparation.

A new library in Madison, constructed in 1987, was complete and awaiting only the shelves when a tornado blasted through the town on April 11, 1987. The force of the storm ripped the brand new structure apart, leaving only the foundation with roughed-in plumbing sticking out of the concrete.

Rebuilding was completed in less than a year, and the new library opened in 1988.

The Dixie County Library occupied what had been an old bank building and health clinic since joining the Region in 1960. In December, 1988 the County celebrated dedication of an enlarged and refurbished facility in that location.

In May, 1990 Madison County expanded its services by establishing a small satellite branch library in the Town of Lee. Dedicated community support and determination have enabled this small library to survive, despite a very limited budget.

In celebration of National Library Week, the Suwannee County Commission on April 7, 1992 signed a resolution honoring local individuals and civic and government groups who had a part in providing countywide library service for the past thirty-five years. The resolution recognized all persons and organizations responsible for the library's origin and progress.

"Those we honor here today were visionaries," said Hales of those responsible for the success of the library. "Our goal today, in honoring these visionaries, is to encourage people to talk about their libraries, to alert the American public regarding the increasing infringement of their right to know, and to mobilize support for libraries and those who have worked, even fought, to have them funded and open to the public."

Local funding for Suwannee County amounted to $191,071 in 1991, as compared to $4,500 for the first budget of the new library in 1956. Circulation for for the same period totaled 167,266 items, an increase of eighteen per cent over the previous year.

On April 4, 1994 the Gilchrist County library collection was moved to the Yates Funeral Home while their old location, originally a church, underwent major renovation and expansion.

The staff operated out of these temporary quarters until the move back to the "new" library on May 31, 1995. They reopened their doors to the public on June 12, 1995 and celebrated dedication on June 17, 1995.

In July 1994 a Regional Task Force began exploring the advantages of dividing the six-county system into two three-county systems. A Task Force was organized to determine whether the system could stand to gain over $200,000 in State Aid by dividing into two regions. The effective date of the proposed change was set for October 1, 1995. Suwannee, Hamilton and Madison counties would consolidate to form the Northern Region; and Dixie, Gilchrist and Lafayette counties would organize as a cooperative entity now known as Three Rivers Regional

Library. Mr. John Hadden was hired to work with Hales for six months prior to the establishment of the new system.

Groundbreaking took place on Tuesday, August 16, 1994 for a new Jasper Library in Hamilton County. This library had moved twice since 1959 and had been in its present building, the old agricultural building for the County school system, since 1974.

The following recognition was included in the program of Dedication on June 4, 1995:

"We must recognize the Hamilton County Bank under the leadership of P. C. Crapps, Jr., who supported the library over twenty years and initially deeded most of the land to the county for this project. Later on Barnett Bank of North Florida donated additional land when it was determined it was needed."

From 1991 to 1996 efforts were focused on construction of a new headquarters facility.

In 1991 Director Danny Hales submitted a grant application to the Department of State, which includes the Division of Library and Information Services, for library construction grant funds to build a new 20,000 square-foot facility that would provide sufficient public and office space for the headquarters library for about fifteen years. However, a county match required for the $400,000 construction grant limit was not available. This proposal was first in line for a state grant if the Legislature appropriated funding for library construction the following year.

Each county in the regional system (Suwannee, Dixie, Gilchrist, Hamilton, Madison and Lafayette) had at least one library, but overall administration and centralized services were handled at the Live Oak facility.

The year of 1996 would bring construction of the new county library, thanks in large part to the enormous effort by Danny Hales and his staff, Friends of the Library, and scores of dedicated donors and volunteers who raised cash and in-kind contributions of over $275,000.

Groundbreaking at the site of the new Suwannee River Regional Library at 1848 Ohio Avenue South in Live Oak was held at 3:00 p.m. on January 4, 1996. The new building was dedicated Sunday, November 24, 1996, at 2:00 p.m. with Open House from 2-4. A time capsule was established to be opened by students of Suwannee County on December 16, 2045 during the Florida Bicentennial.

The Hamilton County Commission included funds in its fiscal year 1997/98 budget for a second county library, which opened on July 27, 1997 in the Town of White Springs.

This was soon followed by a request from residents of the Town of Jennings in Hamilton County to secure support from the Board of County Commissioners for a library in their area. Meetings are currently taking place to pursue viability of this project.

Over the last twenty-one years the Suwannee River Regional Library has built or remodeled six branch libraries, in addition to building the new headquarters library in Suwannee County, which opened in November of 1996. A seventh branch library is currently under construction and slated to open in September, 1998 in Branford.

The Regional System has developed a new organizational and administrative structure, automated the cataloging and circulation departments, and significantly increased staff hours of operation. Books-by-mail, a literacy program, information and referral programs, videos and cassette books were also introduced as new library services.

In addition, the preschool story hour, special programs and services designed for young adults and middle schoolers, as well as special library material collections for middle schoolers and young adults have all been introduced.

What was at time of reorganization in 1996 a three-county, six-library regional system now encompasses seven libraries, with the possibility of an eighth being added in 1998.

At present, 1998, the planning and implementing of a total networked library system is being undertaken. The system will include a wide and local area network with direct connections to the Internet and all libraries, the inclusion of online database for research and reference, and use of the online card catalog.

As in all phases of human endeavor, many contributors of special dedication and achievement, who have enabled the Suwannee River Regional Library to become a State-of-the-Art regional library system, are unsung and unknown. The success of the venture is concrete evidence of the concerted effort of the communities involved.

April 10, 1998 - Compiled by Evelyn Hantz from newspaper and radio releases, financial and use records, and miscellaneous public documents preserved in Live Oak library archives.

Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System

In his popular and informative book on the history of Tampa, Karl Grismer writes: "Of all the things which Tampa built during the busy 'teens, probably nothing pleased more people than the City's first public library." (Tampa, p. 244). And yet, the drive for a library, begun in 1905 by Miss Louise Frances Dodge, did not bear fruit until more than a decade later. Although the Carnegie Foundation had offered $25,000 in funds for Tampa's first library facility, a movement soon developed against accepting the grant.

Even after the funds were finally accepted via a 1912 referendum, further squabbles developed over the location of the library and the amount to be spent by the City Council to furnish and maintain it. Finally, on Friday, April 27, 1917, the Tampa Public Library opened its doors at 102 E. Seventh Avenue. The collection consisted of 3,800 volumes donated by Mr. & Mrs. L.H. Lothridge. A five-member Library Board was charged with the responsibility of paying bills, purchasing books and hiring a librarian.

During this time, the City of West Tampa, a separate governmental entity, also showed an interest in public library service. Approving and accepting a separate Carnegie proposal in 1913, the West Tampa City Council opened a library at 1718 North Howard Avenue. This facility functioned as an independent public library until West Tampa was absorbed by the City of Tampa. In 1925, the West Tampa Library merged with the Tampa Public Library system which, by then, consisted of four library facilities.

By 1927, yet another branch was added to the system so that the City of Tampa was being served by the following facilities:

- Tampa Public Library

- West Tampa Library
- Hyde Park Branch Library
- Harlem Branch Library
- DeSoto Park Branch Library
- Seminole Branch Library

In spite of its fragmented and difficult beginnings, the Tampa Public Library System continued to expand. Libraries were becoming an integral part of Tampa's culture. Reaching beyond the realm of its physical buildings, Tampa's first Bookcar began serving factories and schools in 1930. For the first time, the library visited its patrons instead of asking patrons to visit its facilities. Tampa's first Bookcar reached out to cigar workers and school children, laborers and the elderly. The word "library" had taken on yet another dimension.

While the City of Tampa grew during these early years of the 20th Century, it soon became clear that areas in unincorporated Hillsborough County were also growing at an exponential rate. In 1929, the Plant City Women's Club felt so strongly about the need for library service that they funded a library of their own. The Port Tampa Women's Club followed suit in 1951 by opening a library at the corner of Westshore and Bayshore Boulevards; and, by 1960, the need for library service had spread to other parts of eastern Hillsborough County. In that year, the Brandon Women's Club opened a library in a clubhouse while the Temple Terrace Women's Club opened their own facility on a golf course. It wasn't long before the Ruskin Women's Club Library became incorporated and extended service to residents of southern Hillsborough County residents. Thanks to the efforts of these dedicated women's groups, libraries were reaching farther and farther into the unincorporated areas of the county. Never again was there a question of whether or not to build a library. The only question now was where to build.

In the years that followed, the demand for library service, which began at the City's epicenter, spread throughout the enormous service area of unincorporated Hillsborough County. In 1961, the City of Tampa and Hillsborough County took an historic step by consolidating their libraries into one system by contract. Through this contract, the Tampa Public Library System, Plant City Public Library and Temple Terrace Public Library agreed to provide free public library service and free use of their library facilities to all residents of Hillsborough County. Federal grant funds in the amount of $35,000 were also used to purchase the first County Bookmobile. These developments were, no doubt, instrumental in qualifying the Tampa Library for a new State Aid to Libraries Program which went into effect in that year. The Tampa Library system received a generous $50,000 grant in FY 62-63 and was able to extend even more service to the ever-expanding populations of both the City and the County. By 1965, three more library stations had been added in Sun City Center (1963), Ruskin (1964) and Lutz (1965). With the completion of a new Main Library in 1965, Tampa was poised for literary success.

As the years passed, small libraries were expanded and replaced by larger ones and the service area of the City-County system continued to grow not only to the east but also to the west, north and south. By 1981, the new Brandon Library was circulating 145,376 volumes while its largest competitor in the City (the Tampa Public Library) was circulating 187,649. The high demand for library services in Tampa's bedroom communities simply could not be ignored.

An even larger step toward a consolidation of service was taken in 1984 when Chapter 84-443, Laws of Florida, created the current Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System. All libraries in Hillsborough County, with the exception of Bruton Memorial (Plant City), Temple Terrace and Sun City, came under the purview of the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners and a 12 member, appointed Library Advisory Board. This law supplanted an earlier Florida law (Chapter 69-1655 Laws of Florida) which created a 7 member Library Board and empowered the City to levy ad valorem taxes for its library. With the passage of State Statute 84-443, a special Library Taxing District was also established for the sole purpose of collecting and allocating funds for a county library system. This statute provides for the future inclusion of the Plant City and Temple Terrace libraries in the THPL system upon majority vote of their governing bodies.

By 1996, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System had grown to be the 3rd largest system in the State of Florida--the 27th largest system in the nation. Records show that the original West Tampa Library circulated 3,932 volumes in 1916; in 1997, the same branch circulated 24,162 and is part of a system which circulates more than 3.7 million items per year. A library which began in Tampa with the donation of 3800 books, now spends more than $3 million on materials annually, houses a collection of over 2 million items and serves citizens countywide. While the Bruton Memorial (Plant City) and Temple Terrace libraries continue to operate as separate and autonomous agencies, annual interlocal agreements provide for the continued participation of these affiliates in the THPL system in order to provide service to all Hillsborough County residents.

Composed of a Main Library, 19 branches and a Bookmobile, the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library system has plans for further expansion in the coming years. A new regional facility will open in 1999; two other facilities are being undertaken by the Library Board's Planning Committee. Providing library service to residents within a five-mile radius in urban areas and within 15 minutes driving time in rural areas, has become a goal of the library system and Library Advisory Board.

Besides building new facilities, however, THPL has reached out to citizens through a variety of innovative cooperative ventures. Parks, schools, youth organizations and museums have become THPL partners as the library system seeks to offer services to those who would not have them otherwise. Electronic libraries in recreation centers and Boys & Girls Clubs offer access to on-line resources and enable customers to place holds on materials. A fully electronic library in Bealsville gives customers dial-up access to library services in this remote part of eastern Hillsborough County. And, a subject-specific library facility at the Museum of Science and Industry offers specialized materials to those who need to do research in the areas of science, technology and mathematics. To date, partnering possibilities have been limited only by the imagination and funding sources.

From its humble beginnings in 1905 when it was one woman's dream to have a public library in Tampa, library service in Hillsborough County has grown both materially and conceptually. It is no longer limited by the confines of physical buildings but now reaches out to customers through home computers, storefronts, shared facilities, inter-library loan programs and mobile units. Customers with home computers can access the Library's Home Page, on-line catalog and reference materials from their living rooms and citizens in remote areas of the county are provided with at least minimal service.

As we enter a new millennium in the year 2000, public library service in Hillsborough County faces not only new challenges but also new opportunities for growth as the Tampa-Hillsborough County Public Library System attempts to keep pace with a county which continues to develop at a phenomenal rate. As such, it is fulfilling its mission every day to promote "lifelong learning, an informed citizenry, individual intellectual freedom, enhanced quality of life and broadened horizons" for all residents of Hillsborough County.

Tarpon Springs Public Library

(Member, Pinellas Public Library Cooperative, Inc.)

The Tarpon Springs Library has been a vital part of the life of this community since its founding around 1916 by Mrs. George (Julia) Inness, Jr., wife of the well known artist. She was also the daughter of the owner of Century Publishing.

From the first location in City Hall the Library went in 1921 to a small house on Orange Street. From there it moved to the Arcade building on Pinellas Avenue and remained there until a building on Library Lane, behind the Greek Church, was completed in 1937.

Then in 1964, when the population was about 6,800, a building on beautiful Spring Bayou was constructed. It became a city supported library at that time. The subsequent expansion in 1986 enlarged the building from 3,000 to 9,000 square feet.

Additional space was needed less than ten years later due to population growth and the development of the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. The decision was made to construct a new building of 20,000 square feet in the middle of the downtown area a few blocks from the earlier building in the park. The new building was opened in January, 1997.

At the entrance to the building two life size tarpon models spring from a fountain 20' in diameter which is surrounded by a brick walkway. The bricks have been donated and inscribed to commemorate various members of the community.

The building reflects the town's Greek and old Florida heritage and features a high vaulted ceiling with clerestory windows. The lobby floor is green Mediterranean marble. The same marble is used on the circulation and reference desks which are faced with copper. A combination of red oak and light oak, as well as custom designed and upholstered furniture, enhances the library.

Several outstanding works of art add another special dimension to the building. A six by ten foot reproduction of internationally acclaimed artist Christopher Still's "Changing Tides" is the focal point. The painting's colors of blue, green and purple are used throughout the building.

The Youth Services room is surrounded by six foot high panels of carved glass by artists Karen and Julian Mesa. The design is a playful depiction of underwater marine life and "merchildren." A tall lighthouse, shell shaped chairs and fanciful fish decorations contribute to magical moments in the storytelling area.

Three Rivers Regional Library System

(Dixie, Gilchrist, and Lafayette Counties)

The Three Rivers Regional Library System (TRRLS) is a cooperative public library system serving Dixie, Gilchrist, and Lafayette Counties. After many successful years as members of the Suwannee River Regional Library System, these counties joined together to form a new cooperative based library system, named for the three rivers that run through the counties -- the Sante Fe, Steinhatchee and Suwannee. TRRLS began service on October 1, 1995, Currently in its third year of service to the people of Dixie, Gilchrist and Lafayette Counties, it is striving to meet the challenges of three rural counties all ranked within the top ten Florida counties for projected growth during the next decade.

Tingley Memorial Library

(Bradenton Beach, Manatee County)

Tingley Memorial Library had an inauspicious beginning in 1959 when it was first formed and incorporated as the Bradenton Beach Public Library - a private nonprofit organization. In 1960, there were 159 registered patrons and 2340 books available for lending. At that time there were 7 volunteers staffing the Library.

The Library was first housed in the Harvey Memorial Church and later in a narrow storefront on Bridge Street, Bradenton Beach's main street. In 1967 it was moved to a room in the City Hall and subsequently relocated to a small one story beach cottage located behind City Hall on land owned by the City. As of December 1961, there were 4775 volumes available for lending. The volunteers noted that in the prior 6 months there were 473 registered members who had borrowed 3559 books.

During the early years, 1959-1980, the Library was financially dependent upon small donations from a local Community Municipal Fund and from a few private citizens. Donated books were all gratefully accepted.

In 1986, this bleak picture changed when Mrs. Tingley, a long time devotee of the Library, passed away, leaving a substantial estate to the City with the provision that the funds be used only to expand and operate the Library. The newly renamed Tingley Memorial Library was officially accepted by the City in Resolution 436. this document acknowledges the bequeath from Mrs. Tingley's estate and sets forth the City's agreement to comply with the terms of her will. The most pertinent term requires the establishment and maintenance of a separate, designated financial account for the Library. At this time, the library accepts no tax monies from City, state or federal bodies

Formal supervision of the Library rests in the hands of The Library Board, headed up by Chairperson, John Sandberg. Sandberg oversaw the planning and building of the new facility in 1992 - 1994. Its forward design acknowledges the role computers will play in the "library of the future" by allowing for numerous additional work stations. Its light, airy spaces, community meeting room and modern collection are strong elements. The new Library opened its doors in February of 1994.

The Tingley Memorial Library is housed in a 4 year old building located behind the Bradenton Beach City Hall. The building encompasses an area of about 2800 square feet, of which almost 1900 square feet are dedicated to the shelf storage of about 5500 books and three computers. Two of these computers are dedicated to learning programs for children. The third is available to adults for word processing and CD-ROM programs. Eventually, the Library will hold about 20,000 books and 13 computers.

There is no residency requirement for becoming a member of the Library but there is an annual membership fee of one dollar and members must have a local telephone number and address-- thus ensuring the capability to track down overdue books. Membership now totals about 2000 patrons and during 1997 there were 10,650 books borrowed for an average of 888 per month. Local patrons come from the 3 cities of Anna Maria Island, north Longboat Key, Cortez village and northwest Bradenton. The Library also draws patrons from all over the US and Canada who are visiting the area.

The Library since inception has been operated by dedicated volunteers and now has one part time clerk who is paid for 20 hours per week. The clerk provides continuity in the daily operation and assists the volunteers in their execution of library procedures.

Financial support for the operation and maintenance of the Library has been provided mainly by the terms of the will of the late Beulah Hannah Hooks Tingley, membership fees, book sales and donations from generous patrons.

The Library is open 24 hours per week on a varied schedule so that all can find a convenient time to visit. Approximately 2000 childrens and juvenile books are part of the collection along with some 500 paperbacks, newspapers and magazine subscriptions and a smattering of audio books. Many materials are acquired by donation and the emphasis is on recreational reading appropriate to a resort and retirement population. In order to comply with the expressed desires of the membership, bestselling fiction, non-fiction and biographies make up most of the books purchased. Mysteries and adventure stories are popular selections.

Two grants from the Sarasota Bay National Estuary Program have allowed for the design and public education regarding the xeriscape landscaping of the property. The design highlights local plantings that are salt tolerant and able to survive in the sun drenched sandy environment with low maintenance and minimal use of fertilizers.

Tingley Memorial Library today is a friendly modern community resource valued by residents and visitors to the charming island city of Bradenton Beach.

Union County Public Library

(Member, New River Public Library Cooperative)

Prepared by Virginia K. Bird, Director 1989-1997

January 1998

In 1986, a group of concerned citizens, seeing the need for a public library, started a volunteer-run library with donated books and materials in one room of the local Community Center.

Two years later a .5 mill ad valorum tax was passed by the voters of the County to fund a public library. This dedicated source of revenue allowed the County library to hire a professional director and qualify for State Aid to Libraries. A director was hired and charged with renovating a small (1400 sq. ft.) bank building and providing library services.

On March 1, 1990 the new library opened to the public. Response from the community was positive. Since then, the library has added an ambitious schedule of children's programming, service to the county jail, and provides outreach services by means of a Mailbox Books programs.

In 1996 the library joined the New River Public Library Cooperative and receives support services in the areas of networking, Internet connections, automation, children's programming, and continuing education.

A much needed expansion (an additional 1900 sq. ft.) was completed in August 1997. The newly renovated and expanded space has additional room for stacks, seating and a meeting/programming room.

The library has seen great growth and community pride In the eight years that it has been open to the public. It is rewarding to see the progress from no library service in the county, to the busy and vital library that we have today.

Volusia County Public Library

Compiled by: Gayle Harmon

Edgewater Beach

December 1993

Prior to the enactment of the Library Services Act in the mid-fifties (later to become the Library Services and Construction Act), throughout the United States libraries were frequently substandard or non-existent, particularly in rural areas. In Florida, 2,000,000 people had no access to library service, and only a quarter of the population had adequate service.

Volusia County libraries were small, often started by women's clubs, or associations which supported the library through memberships. Others were supported by municipalities, but cloistered in small rooms of city halls or community centers. Not only were facilities inadequate, book collections consisted mainly of second-hand books contributed by citizens, and there were few professional librarians.

Charlotte Smith, head librarian at Stetson University during that period, recognized the need for a countywide effort to upgrade libraries, and organized the Volusia County library program in 1949. C. Smith served as leader for the group and arranged for the survey of Volusia County library facilities made by the Florida Library Association in 1952.

The Library Service Act passed by Congress in 1956 provided funds to supplement or organize library service to communities under 10,000 population. Federal funds were available for a period of 2 years to set up a county system, which would also serve rural areas through bookmobiles. This act allowed the State library to function and to begin to build service throughout the state.

On September 20, 1960 in New Smyrna Beach, two state officials, Elizabeth Cole, Florida State Public Library Consultant and Verna Nistendirk, Director of Extension Services met with library board members, librarians, city and county officials to show a film and to explain the advantages of the Library Services Act. A committee was appointed to make a study of library conditions in the county. Mr. George Boone was named chairman of the study group and was charged to report within the year.

At that time there were 10 libraries in Volusia County with a total annual expenditure of $34,634. To use Edgewater as an example, a library was in place in a Village Improvement Association building and supported by the city. A non-professional librarian was paid $1.00 an hour and $50 a month was allotted for new books. Other expenditures during this period included a door silencer because the banging screen door distracted the few readers and the installation of a telephone on a party line. Children's storytime was offered regularly and a Friends of the Library group actively supported the library.

The advantages of a centralized library system were obvious. Central buying would save money and time, while central processing and cataloging would free local librarians from this task. Borrowers could have inter-library loan service and library cards would be interchangeable throughout the county. Statistics showed that library users did not necessarily live in cities, and used city libraries at taxpayer expense or were assessed a fee for service. With the proposed system, free access would be available to all residents of the county. Joint board meetings of the boards in the county would determine overall policies. Local boards would determine specific local policies. Federal funds would be funneled through the state to the county to be allotted and spent through the county library system.

On April 12, 1961 a meeting was called at the request of the study group and held once again in New Smyrna Beach. About 70 people attended including all five County Commissioners. The committee recommended the formation of a unified county library system. Various cities and library boards also urged the County Commission to support the countywide library.

Word was received in May that the Florida Legislature had passed a Library State Aid bill, and the scene was set for the county government to make a commitment. In September of 1961, the county library system went into operation. A library board was appointed by the governor and George Boone was named Chairman. This governing board received monies from the County for appropriate dispensation.

One of the first acts of the County Library Board was the hiring of the first Director of Volusia County Public Library, Bradley Simon from Mecklenburg, North Carolina at the salary of $333 per month. The original operating grant consisted of $74,776 from the County and $15,215 from the State. Contacting local boards and city officials was top priority for Mr. Simon in preparation for the presentation of contracts to be signed with the County. Cities must agree to the terms of the agreement and Daytona Beach allowed the County to take over City Island Library operations as county library headquarters.

Of equal importance to meeting the requirements of the Library Services Act was the setting up of a bookmobile service. David Kantor was hired as Director of Extension Services for Volusia County Public Library in July, 1962 and charged with the responsibility. Two secondhand bookmobiles were purchased from Michigan for $3800. They were painted and refurbished for service to the rural areas of Volusia County beginning in September.

One by one the cities and associations agreed to the unified system. By October 1, 1962 Volusia County Public Library was a viable organization with eight employees. Members of Volusia County Public Library were as follows:

1. Bookmobile Services
2. City Island Library, Daytona Beach
3. DeBary Public Library
4. DeLand Public Library
5. Edgewater Public Library
6. H. G. Putnam Memorial Library Association, Oak Hill
7. Hopkins Library, Lake Helen
8. New Smyrna City Library
9. S. Cornelia Young, Daytona Beach
10. Volusia County Public Library Headquarters.

While funding was being received for upgrading materials and services, no money was available for added professional personnel. In 1962, the Federal government provided funds for scholarships in reaction to an urgent need for professional librarians. In Florida alone a need was shown for 1000 in school, public, college and industrial libraries. Florida State University, the only accredited library school in the state was recruiting prospective students. Several people working in the system wanted librarianship as career and were able to take advantage of this opportunity. Later other staff members took leaves of absence to pursue their studies in the field. In this way a professional staff began to grow.

Holly Hill was soon to join the system, followed by Ormond Beach in 1965. Orange City became the tenth in January, 1966. Libraries needing new construction began the process to qualify for those funds provided by the federal government by the Act. Bradley Simon resigned at the end of 1963 and David Kantor was named acting Director. On June 9, 1964 D. Kantor officially became director and remained in this position until his retirement in January, 1981.

In the years to follow there was a flurry of new construction. More funds were made available in conjunction with the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, a part of the War on Poverty. DeLand had already opened a new library on April 15, 1964. In January, 1965 New Smyrna City Library became the fourth in the State to win a grant approval under the Library Service and Construction Act of 1964. However controversy over the site and design delayed start of construction. It was dedicated December 11, 1966 and renamed the Brannon Memorial Library, honoring the name of local attorney Fred Brannon, a library board member before his death.

Holly Hill qualified soon after. The grant allowed the library to move out of the basement of City Hall and into a new building in June 1967. Edgewater dedicated their new building on October 15, followed by DeBary in November, 1967. By 1965 there were efforts to build a new city-county facility at Daytona Beach, but it was 14 years from the start of planning to fruition. Gertrude Dayton and her committees rallied public support from the city and county to get a full federal grant made available by Congress to alleviate unemployment during an economic dip in the 1970s. A two-million dollar grant was approved in 1978 and the building was completed in the fall of 1979.

In the first three years that the Volusia County Public Library had functioned circulation had more than doubled from a figure of 208,023 in 1963 to 540,408 in 1966. The budget had also increased dramatically as well, from the original operating grant of some $75,000 to $112,000. LP recordings were added to the collection in 1966, and film service was provided in 1967. S. Cornelia Young offered an innovation, the Vico Matic. This coin- operated copying machine could be used to make copies for 25 cents per page.

The first countywide in-service workshop on library service improvement was conducted in DeLand in March, 1968, children's programs and services being the emphasis. The same year a children's film preview committee was formed. Members of this committee met in the evening once a month and rated films to possibly purchase for the county collection. In January, 1969, Kathryn Stewart, coordinator of library services for the county (now Director of Brevard County Library System), initiated in-service training meetings for head librarians in order to satisfy a state requirement. Monthly head librarians meetings continued until 1986. At that time the schedule was changed to every other month, and finally in 1991 to quarterly meetings.

In 1968, 50% of library patrons resided outside of city limits and by virtue of the county system had access to all library services. A discussion began about the possibility that the county assume financial responsibility for all public libraries. Under this plan the operation of the library system would be fully integrated into county government. Library boards would become advisory rather than policy making boards Staff members would become Volusia County employees and tasks related to personnel, payroll, purchasing, etc. were to be assumed by Volusia County. Buildings and their maintenance would remain the responsibility of the cities. The contract to activate this new form of unified library service was voted in by County Council September 7, 1972 and most cities were willing to accept new agreements. The notable exception was Ormond Beach. Finally the controversy was taken to court in 1979, at which time the City of Ormond Beach sued the County of Volusia, requesting that residents of the municipality not be taxed for the operation of the county library. The case having been settled in the County's favor, Ormond Beach joined the library system in October, 1980.

Deltona was developed by a large construction firm, the Mackle Brothers, as a planned residential community between Sanford and Daytona Beach in the late sixties and early seventies. At this writing, it is still unincorporated. A group of citizens asked to join the library system, and at first only bookmobile service was provided. After the Mackle Brothers donated land for the library site, within two years sufficient matching funds were realized from private donations to qualify for a government grant. Deltona Library opened on February 2, 1976, the only fully county owned library.

Dickerson Community Center Library opened in December of 1977 and provided library service to the black community of Daytona Beach. The City of Daytona Beach took pride in Bethune Cookman College, and there was no official segregation of library facilities. However even after desegregation of schools, the black community as a whole was still uncomfortable with using the City Island Library. When Daytona Beach provided a community center for blacks, the opportunity to ask for space for a library was realized. A survey of the black community showed interest in the library. Federal money was available to hire and train a black staff. Thus, a library was established in the Campbell Street Center, later to be renamed Dickerson Community Center.

Children's Services have always been a top priority with Volusia County Public Library. Participation in the State Library Summer Library Program began in 1968 with "Tournament Tactics" as the theme and continues each summer. Libraries became interested in providing puppet shows for young patrons and early in 1973, puppet workshops were held on the third Tuesday evening of each month. At these meetings interested staff members learned to make puppets, chose shows and rehearsed. Neighboring libraries cooperated with each other to present programs. In 1975, Suzanne Shaeffer became the first Children's Coordinator and children's services became an organized countywide focus. By 1978 the children's coordinator conducted monthly meetings of children's services personnel from all system libraries, and continue today. Puppetry, crafts, storytelling techniques, book selection, and other activities may be on the agenda. Among many noteworthy achievements of Children's Services over the years has been the selection of Volusia County to present the State Summer Library Program Workshop twice. Suzanne Shaeffer and Elaine Manson presented "Quest: Search for the Dragon's Treasure" in 1984, and Elaine and Ruth McCormack "Summer Safari" in 1991.

VCPL (Volusia County Public Library) has also been active on the state level in other aspects. Many employees are members of the Florida Library Association and attend or participate in caucuses and annual conferences. Our director from 1981 until 1993, James Wheeler served as President of that organization, as well as on several committees. Each year a large convoy of Volusia County supporters journey to Tallahassee for Library Day. This event affords an opportunity to lobby the legislature and the governor on behalf of library concerns. The tradition of the large delegation from Volusia County began in 1983 when Eugene Allison (who served as Coordinator of Library Services, Coordinator of Daytona Beach Libraries, Assistant Director and Library Services Manager/Collections during his 19 year career with Volusia County Public Library) organized a group of 46 people to make the trip. At this annual event, Volusia, County remains "the county to beat" in numbers and enthusiasm.

As early as 1978, VCPL began to recognize the necessity for automation in the libraries. E. Allison attended a workshop on automated systems and began to research the possibility for the new Volusia County Library Center being constructed on City Island in Daytona Beach and the other three large libraries. Funding was not available at that time, however.

Other innovations were possible though, largely thanks to Friends of the Library groups. One of the first public libraries in the country to offer personal computers for public use was the Brannon Memorial Library at New Smyrna Beach. The Friends purchased the first PC for the library in 1981, and have continued to support this service. Other Friends groups followed suit and soon personal computers were available throughout the county as a library service.

No history of VCPL could be complete with discussion of the importance of the 5,000 Friends of the Library and more than 1,000 citizen volunteers, the most in Florida. These support groups provide funds and volunteer labor without which VCPL would not be able to function at its present level. In June of 1992, the 1,000,000th volunteer hour in service of VCPL was attained. The 126,308 hours worked that year equates to 69.4 full-time personnel and conservatively estimated, a savings of $928,363 annually. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been raised on behalf of the Library by Friends groups around the county, providing equipment, furnishings, services, and books for the public.

Although a delay had occurred, the commitment to automation had remained. The first OCLC terminal arrived in 1983, and processing of materials using this equipment began in 1984. Automation and the CLSI program was approved by County Council in 1988 and preparations for the automated system could begin in earnest even though funding had not yet been approved. Sarah Webster had been hired in 1986 as Head of Technical Services and Automation. Under her direction much of the background for the project had been done. As soon as financing permitted, CLSI equipment was installed in August of 1989, and training began immediately. Jim Bailey was hired as System Operator and the monumental task of data entry and barcoding was being carried out in each branch. At last VCPL began on-line circulation December 10, 1990. Judy Valk is the current Head of Technical Services/Automation. Over a million barcodes are in use for materials and borrowers. The public access on-line catalog will be in place as financing allows.

During the '80s the Library thrived. Expansion of existing libraries occurred in many communities. Port Orange began its library in a storefront in Riverwood Shopping Plaza in 1984 until construction could be completed in a portion of Port Orange's City Hall. New buildings were completed in Lake Helen and Edgewater in 1988, and in DeLand in 1989. Statistics revealed that VCPL was 7th or 8th in the state in circulation and square footage, but 42nd in books per capita and 46th in operating expenditures. Salaries were 25% lower than comparable positions in neighboring counties and the 103 -member staff had the highest work load in the state.

Under J. Wheeler's leadership, efforts were made to correct these problems. Materials budget increases were fought for and the books per capita improved. The Cody Personnel Studies of 1984 and 1989 recommended the upgrading of salaries for non-professionals, and pay comparable to teachers in the area for librarians. In 1984, the County Library Board passed a resolution that placed a moratorium on construction of new branches. Long range plans were discussed that included the possibility of regionalization. Within the next 20 years, they anticipated there being 6 libraries the size of the Library Center in Daytona Beach with the potential to serve 100,000 customers. At a subsequent meeting of the Board in 1985, the regional concept was again discussed. It was agreed to support regionalization, but the importance of community branches was emphasized.

In 1986 (the year VCPL annual circulation surpassed 2,000,000), HBW Associates, Inc., a firm of library planners and consultants, was hired by Volusia County to prepare recommendations for a long-range plan. The final report was presented in April, 1987, and addressed issues facing VCPL into the next century. This report continues to be used as a planning tool, the ultimate goal being to meet national library standards and to provide the highest quality library service.

Towards these goals, changes are taking place. Administrative functions have been moved to a centrally located facility on Indian Lake Road that was constructed for this purpose in 1991. A reorganization of staff and responsibilities resulted in creating the new positions of Library Services Manager for Operations, Support Services Manager and Collection Development/Outreach Manager positions currently held by Sue Habel, Bill Bowden and Russell Long. Volusia County Library Center has been renovated to make use of space made available when VCPL administration was relocated. It now functions as Daytona Beach Regional Library. DeLand, Ormond Beach, Port Orange, Deltona, and New Smyrna were also designated regional libraries. Building programs to provide facilities adequate to the task are planned for Port Orange and Deltona. NSB is presently considered the Southeast Volusia Regional, and a site is being selected in the southeast area for construction of a new facility.

In the approximately 30 years that VCPL has been an entity, enormous progress has been made. A loose federation of community libraries has evolved into a progressive system of 14 libraries linked by computer technology. Materials available to the library user have gone from an inadequate collection of mediocre books to a desirable selection of books, magazines, videos, CDs, cassettes, toys and art prints. Well over 400,000 reference transactions are handled annually by a well-trained staff. Volusia County Public Library's annual circulation of 2.5 million ranks ninth in Florida and higher than that in systems in Boston, Washington D.C., Detroit, and New Orleans. Program attendance in Volusia County libraries leads the state.

There is much to be proud of in reviewing the accomplishments of the past. There is also much to be done. Upgrading of facilities and equipment will continue. Goals and objectives regarding staff, services, and materials will be met. We must keep abreast of the rapid changes that are occurring in technology and information systems at a fantastic rate. Dealing with the tasks ahead is made more challenging by the present economic climate. However, the spirit and energy that led VCPL to be the progressive system it is today in a short period of time will no doubt prevail, and VCPL will go forward successfully into the next century.

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Wakulla County Public Library

(Member, Wilderness Coast Public Library System)

In October, 1972, a branch of Leon County Public Library, was established in Crawfordville as a result of the efforts of the Crawfordville Woman's Club' and Library Committee Chair, Ann Estes. Service was provided from a vacant grocery store adjacent to the County Courthouse.

The Wakulla County Public Library (WCPL) was formed in 1976 when the Board of County Commissioners passed Local Ordinance 76-4, providing for free library service to all residents of Wakulla County and ending its relationship with Leon County. A new home was needed for the library and a bicentennial grant was obtained to restore the Old County Courthouse, Florida's oldest wooden courthouse. The library moved into the Old County Courthouse in 1976 and remained there until December, 1995.

Initially the library offered services from 2 of the 4 rooms on the first floor of this building and the local Chamber of Commerce and commodities program used the remainder of the building. As the library began to grow the other activities were moved to new locations and the library occupied all of the first and second floors of the building. The second floor was used for office and meeting room purposes.

Throughout the years the library has provided a popular collection of children's and adult fiction and nonfiction materials. It has also offered a wide variety of programs for children and adults.

Bookmobile service was provided in the county from 1979 to 1983 but due to the age of the vehicle and frequent breakdowns this service was abandoned. In 1989, after receiving an

LSCA grant, bookmobile service was begun again and through the auspices of Wilderness Coast Public Libraries was expanded to Jefferson and Franklin Counties in 1994. In 1996., Wilderness Coast Public Libraries purchased a new Bookmobile and now provides this service to the three county area.

In 1986 an LVA Tutor Training Workshop was held at the library. From this small beginning an active Adult Literacy Program came into being and continues today. Originally located on the second floor of the Old County Courthouse, this operation was funded exclusively from Title VI LSCA grants. The program is now located at the library, as well the Wakulla Adult Education Center, where it maintains a large collection of materials and a computer reading/writing lab for the students. Funding is provided by the library, Wilderness Coast Public Libraries, the Wakulla County School Board, and Literacy volunteers of Wakulla County. There are currently 30 students and tutors working with this program.

In November, 1994, a committee was formed to find a new site for WCPL. In its existing location the library had long ago surpassed its space needs and had severe problems with security, climate control, and potential fire hazards. Another major problem was the building's lack of accessibility and compliance with ADA standards- Library programs were being held off site to accommodate people with disabilities and a 35 percent reduction in collection size was needed to open stack aisle widths to ADA standards.

The seven member library committee, chaired by then Friends of WCPL President Peggy Martin, immediately focused their attention on acquisition of a vacant 10,000 sq. ft. facility in Medart. Because of the hard work of this committee and a large show of support from county residents, the Board of County Commissioners, signed a contract to purchase this building on June 25, 1995.

During the summer of 1995, the Friends of the Library began renovations to the building costing nearly $20,000 so that the library could receive a certificate Of Occupancy. The renovations included adding fire exits, making the bathroom handicap accessible, building a meeting room, and painting and carpeting the interior.

In December of 1995, the library moved to the new facility. In July, 1996, the library received a $300,000 Library Renovation Grant from Secretary of State Sandra Mortham's office and the Florida Legislature. From February, 1997 until August, 1997, the library underwent a major transformation from a bare bones grocery store to that of a modern functional library building. In addition, the Friends of the Library and the Iris Garden Club have undertaken an extensive landscaping project for the three acres of land on which the library is located. With the help of a $2,500 Department of Agriculture Urban and Community Forest Grant, nearly 300 trees were planted during 1997.

In November, 1997, another milestone was achieved when the SIRSI Library Automation System was brought on-line. Acquired through a grant obtained by Wilderness Coast Public Libraries, the system provides OPACs, automated circulation functions, and a union list of holdings for the Jefferson, Franklin, Wakulla County Public Libraries, as well as the Wilderness Coast Bookmobile. Also in November the library began public Internet access with a computer purchased with a FLORINET grant.

Throughout its history, WCPL owes its success to the many dedicated employees, Friends, volunteers, and others who have donated time, money and materials to make the library what it is today. Past Library Directors of WCPL include Sue Crum (1975-1975), Bobbie Stephens/Liz Butterfield (1975-1978); Verna Brock (1978-1980), Sue Crum (1980-1984); and Doug Jones (1985-present). The 1998 Library Advisory Board includes Michelle Snow

(Chairperson), James Donnini, Roberta Phillips, Jeanne Pope, Vicki Smith, Mary Butera, and John Probert. The Officers of the Friends of the Library in 1998 are Cathy Cameron, President, Debbie Reich, Vice President, Roberta Phillips, Secretary, and Mary Butera, Treasurer.

Walton-DeFuniak Springs Library

An organization of women formed the "Aid Society" in the winter of 1886 in the Florida Panhandle town of DeFuniak Springs to welcome the many newcomers who had been attracted to this small recently-founded railroad town by the opening of the Florida Chautauqua the previous year. By early summer in 1887, this energetic group of women began to plan for more specific services. It was apparent that a library was needed to provide reference material for the community at the Florida Chautauqua and to furnish recreational reading material for winter visitors. Therefore, the "Aid Society" members pledged $1 each to buy books to start this endeavor, and changed their group's name to the "Ladies' Library Association."

Naturally, the first requirement was an adequate building to house the library. So, a one-room 75' by 100' lot was leased from the DeFuniak Land Company, and the original building, costing $579.80, officially opened its doors on December 20, 1887. Although this original portion of the building has been added to several times over the years, it still remains as the front of the present library. The Ladies' Library Association didn't abandon their original objectives, however, and continued to give socials and various other forms of entertainment every week at the DeFuniak Public Library, named in honor of Captain Frederick de Funiak, who was entitled to the French title of "Count" and came to the United States from Europe. (The village of DeFuniak Springs was named for him also in 1882.)

For the first few years, the library was served by volunteer librarians, one of which was Alice Fellows, who later, in 1902, became the first salaried librarian. Miss Fellows undertook the job of classifying and cataloguing the 2,000 books on the shelves. For 30 years (1896 - 1926), she filled the position of Librarian at DeFuniak Public Library, almost from the organization of the institution. She received a very minimal salary and declined more money, as she worked largely through her love of the task and dutifully serving the people. She persisted in keeping all questionable books out of the library. Of course, she was succeeded by several successful individuals, up to the current librarian who carries on the tradition, Ms. Marilyn Coe. A donated picture of the diligent and initial librarian, Miss Fellows, is displayed in the library, in remembrance of her remarkable and memorable endeavors.

While several additions have been skillfully meshed with the architecture of the original white-painted wooden building over the years, it still appears as quaint now as it must have the day it opened over a century ago. In addition, the name of the library changed in 1966 to Walton-DeFuniak Public Library, in order to take advantage of state and federal monies then available, as well as to become a member of the Florida Regional Library, thereby having the opportunity to better serve the community and its needs. Furthermore, a state historical marker proclaims the Walton-DeFuniak Public Library to be the "oldest structure in Florida built as a library and still serving that purpose" at its original site on Circle Drive near the bank of the lovely Lake DeFuniak. The library's original building is still inscribed with only the word "LIBRARY," and an "Established 1886" sign is proudly displayed at its entrance. Also, the original, wooden-floor portion of the library is adorned with a collection of swords and other weaponry that ranges from those used at the time of the Crusades to rifles of the Daniel Boone era, as well as various significant, historical scrapbooks, portraits, books, pictures, and antiques. And, true to its tradition, the little citadel of knowledge still draws support from the community, as its presence not only possesses historical significance, but also expresses a desire for an education, enjoyment, and cultural development. And still, the Walton-DeFuniak Public Library continues to thrive in this small community, over 100 years later.

West Florida Regional Library

(Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties)

1885	The Pensacola Library Association organized as a subscription library. One hundred eighty-four members paid twenty-five cents per month to use the library.
1904, 1910, 1911, 1919	Attempts made to secure Carnegie funds for a public library. However, the City failed to provide a site and a promise of future support for such a library, so that funds were not obtained. The City later allotted $25 per month, and then $50 per month. The library moved to various locations downtown and at some point a bond election failed.
1933	The subscription library closed and its books stored in the San Carlos Hotel.
February 1937	Pensacola City Council passed ordinance to establish a free public library and created a five-member board.
January 1938	Lucia Tryon hired as Librarian to organize and open library.
February 15, 1938	Pensacola Free Public Library opened in Old Christ Church with 3,352 books, including those from the old subscription library and a hundred dollars' worth of new ones.
1938	The Shakespeare Club opened a library on Oak Street in Milton
March 1, 1938	Pensacola Free Public Library counted 2,375 cardholders.

August 17, 1952	Alice S. Williams Branch Library opened to serve the Black community.
1957	New Pensacola Public Library opened at Spring and Gregory Street.
1963	Santa Rosa entered into inter-local agreement with City of Pensacola, with service to 1800 patrons at the Milton Branch Library. Beginning of the West Florida Regional Library System.
1963	First Bookmobile began operation, shared by Pensacola and Santa Rosa County.
December 1964	Pensacola City Council voted to extend service to the rest of Escambia County through inter-local agreement with the County. City approved addition to the Pensacola Public Library.
April 1965	Larger Bookmobile began service to Escambia County.
April 1967	Addition to Pensacola Public Library completed.
1971	Santa Rosa opened branch in Gulf Breeze.
1972	Outreach Van begins serving low-income areas.
1973	Friends of the Pensacola Public Library established.
1974	The "Summers Report" presented a study of the West Florida Regional Library recommending the immediate establishment of a branch in northeast Pensacola and, by 1985, the expansion or replacement of the main library.

1974	Jay Branch opened in rented quarters.
	Milton Branch moved to new building on Alabama Street (present location), with 12,164 cardholders.
1975	Belvedere Branch opens at North Ninth Avenue at Creighton Road. (In 1983 moved to Bayou Boulevard as Northeast Branch.)
	New building for Gulf Breeze Branch completed.
1976	Alice S. Williams Branch closes and merges with main library.
	Jay Branch moves into new Jay Civic Center building.
1979	New Bookmobile for Santa Rosa County, housed in Milton
1981	Bookmobile service discontinued in Santa Rosa County
1989-90	Study by HBW Associates, Inc., Library Planners and Consultants, found WFRL well behind libraries in comparable communities in facilities, collections, staffing and funding, and able to provide only "the extreme basics" of library service. Recommended immediate automation, building a new main library by 1995, adding branches and increasing library per capita funding from $5.00 to $20 per capita by 2000.
1990	Lucia M. Tryon Branch Library opened at N. Ninth Ave. and College Boulevard giving a permanent home to the former Northeast Branch.

1990-91	Escambia County Budget cuts forced main library and new Tryon Branch to close Sundays and Mondays and drastically reduce book purchases.
1993	Automated circulation and computerized catalog inaugurated.
1993	Navarre Branch Library, begun as an all volunteer operation by the Friends of the Navarre Library, joins the West Florida Regional Library System.
1994	Funds secured to build addition to Gulf Breeze Branch. Funds include state grant, a one-time local MSTU and private contributions gathered by the Friends of the Gulf Breeze Library.
1996	Dedication of addition to Gulf Breeze Branch
1996	In a non-binding referendum, Navarre voters agreed to a two-year .30 million tax levy to match anticipated grant funds for a permanent library building
1997	Internet access provided at all library locations.
	Escambia County budgeted funds for a storefront branch library in southwest Escambia County, to open in the spring of 1998

Wilderness Coast Public Libraries

(Franklin, Jefferson, and Wakulla Counties)

By Cheryl Turner, Central Administrator

February 16, 1998

The Wilderness Coast Public Libraries (WILD) is a cooperative library created in October 1992 under the guidelines set by the State Library of Florida. The cooperative was formed through an Interlocal Agreement signed by the following legal entities: the Franklin County Board of County Commissioners; the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners; the Wakulla County Board of County Commissioners; and the Wilderness Coast Public Libraries Governing Board. Each county library is also served by a local library advisory board of citizens. WILD is governed by a board consisting of two members from each participating county. The library directors and central administrator constitute the Directors' Council. The WILD Administrative Office is located in Crawfordville, Florida in Wakulla County, near the center of the three counties.

Prior to the formation of the cooperative, Jefferson and Wakulla Counties had established countywide library service. Franklin County began its library service in one room in Eastpoint on October 1, 1992 and opened a branch in Carrabelle in August 1993. The Eastpoint Library expanded to 3 rooms at the Point Mall in 1997. The Franklin County Public Library came up on the SIRSI automated system in February 1997.

Wakulla County Public Library (WCPL) in Medart, Florida recently completed the renovation of a larger one-story building they moved into in December of 1996. WCPL came up on the SIRSI automated system in November of 1997.

Jefferson County Public Library (JCPL) in Monticello, Florida has just completed a new shelving installation. It opened two upstairs rooms to the public in 1996 with a Family Learning Center, complete with Internet access for the public. JCPL was previously automated with tile Follett system It converted to the SIRSI system in April 1997.

The WILD Office is the server center for tile SIRSI real time automated system purchased in late 1996. The libraries are now connected via 56 Kb lines, and should upgrade soon to support Internet direct connections. Retrospective conversion for Wakulla and Franklin Counties has been ongoing. All three libraries have Internet access for the public as of 1997.

The WILD Bookmobile serves all three rural counties, one each week. As of September 1997, the registered borrowers number 12,393 for all three counties. There are 72,663 volumes system-wide. The circulation is 106,968. All three county libraries have increased staff time, staff compensation, service, physical space, holdings, and programs since October 1992. The 1996-97 per capita expenditure for WILD public library services was $16.62.

WILD did extremely well with programs from 1995 to 1997. Then the library program staff gave way to technology expenses, and the county libraries resumed most program responsibilities. Distance learning capabilities are a future goal.

Winter Park Public Library

From "Miss Lamson's Porch: A History of the Winter Park Public Library"
By Susana S. Parnell and Yvonne C. T. Vassel
Researched by: Susana S. Parnell
Edited by: Yvonne C.T. Vassel

BEGINNINGS

Hooker, Lamson, Cady, McClure, Guild, Ladd, Clark, Cook and Brown - nine names on which the life of Winter Park's first circulating library was built. Well-educated, capable, energetic and affluent, these women of the new township came together on the morning of December 9, 1885, to affix the stamp of organization to the Winter Park Circulating Library Association.

Books had been circulating in an organized reading circle for some time and, perhaps almost as long, there had been talk of creating a library for the community.

The village of Winter Park was less than five years old. It was in July 1881 that Loring Chase and Oliver Chapman obtained a deed to 600 acres of high land between Lakes Maitland and Virginia, Osceola and Killarney. The town was platted with a boulevard running east from the South Florida Railroad depot to the shore of Lake Osceola.

The first buildings of the newly created township were completed by 1882 but there had been residents in the area before Chase and Chapman began their development project. The community of Osceola, located approximately where Mizell and Phelps Avenues intersect today, was home to the Mizells who had come to the area in 1857.

Charles and Eleanora Comstock had been winter visitors since 1877 and Mary Brown and Mary McClure - two of the library's founders - arrived in 1878. The two Marys built their home on the southwest shore of Lake Sylvan and named it "No Man's Land."

When the railroad finally came through the area it was located more than a mile to the west of the fledgling Osceola community. With its attraction as a business district stymied, Osceola became a part of Winter Park in 1884 and the Winter Park population soared to 500 by 1885.

Winter Park's image as a desirable place to live, already enhanced by the advent of the railroad, received another boost when it was chosen by the Congregational Church's national board as the site for a college. Classes at Rollins College began in the fall of 1885. At the time, construction on the elegant, four-story Seminole Hotel was nearing completion.

Yet, the physical appearance of Winter Park, as we know it, was still a long way away.

There was little of the oak canopy seen today. Instead, the prevalent trees were cypress and pine with palmetto and oak scrub. The streets were little more than wide, sandy tracks and the low bushes planted in precise rows were young citrus trees. The houses were wood- frame, mostly two-story with steeply pitched roofs, deep porches and tall windows designed to catch the slightest breeze.

On this particularly cold December day, the group of women intent on creating a lending library held a meeting at the Parsonage, located on the current Rollins College Campus roughly where the Bush Science Center sits today.

This was a time of male-only suffrage and women had to content themselves with more "ladylike" pursuits such as ministering to the needy and coming up with ideas for civic projects.

It was a time for noble purpose and new beginnings. The war, which had so bitterly divided the country twenty years before, was beginning to fade in memory and a mood of reconciliation was strong.

The record of that day's meeting, held close to the corner fireplace in the parlor, was brief. It names only the people elected to be officers of the circulating library:

President	Mrs. E. P. Hooker
Secretary & Treasurer	Miss E. Lamson
Librarian	Mrs. W. O. Cady
Solicitors	Misses McClure & Guild
Executive Committee	Mrs. Ladd, Mrs. Clark, Mrs. Cook, Miss Brown

WHAT IS KNOWN OF THE FOUNDERS

Elizabeth Hooker, 41, was the wife of Dr. Hooker, a Congregational minister and president of Rollins College. The daughter of a missionary, she had six children. She was raised by an uncle, a professor at Middlebury College, and so received some advanced education and was likely familiar with the workings of a college library.

Mary McClure, 63, and Mary E. Brown, 62, had both retired from teaching at Northwestern University. McClure, an artist, was said to be rather introverted. On the other hand, Mary Brown was remembered after her death at 87 in 1909 as being "of a singularly acute and independent mind, a lover of the best books, a keen critic, and an unfailing source of intellectual stimulus to all who knew her." Like Mrs. Hooker, Brown was the daughter of missionaries; her father had been an Episcopal priest who served on the Florida east coast in the 1870's.

Little is known of Mrs. C. J. Ladd except that the Winter Park Column of May 17, 1885 reported the arrival of Mr. Ladd of Everett, Mass. And, in October, reported that his store - one half a drugstore and the other a hardware store - occupied the entire ground floor of the New Hampshire block.

There were two Misses Guild who came from Boston with their father Dr. William A. Guild in December 1883. Sr. Guild later purchased property on the north shore of Lake Osceola and built "Weatogue" as a residence and boarding house. Alice Guild was probably the one elected as a fund raiser for the library. She was about 25 years old, a graduate of the Boston Art School. Her sister Clara was a member of the first class at Rollins and later received the college's first degree conferred upon a woman.

Mrs. Clark was described in one newspaper article as "a wealthy lady from Minneapolis." She was the mother-in-law of Frederick Lyman, the first chairman of the Rollins College Board of Trustees.

Mrs. W.O. Cady and Mrs. Cook were from Bloomington, Illinois. Apart from the fact Mr. Cady was the clerk for Robert White in his Park Avenue store, little is known about either woman. In 1887 the local newspaper reported that the Cadys had returned to their old home in Illinois and mentioned that Mrs. Cady was a librarian for the Winter Park circulating library. However, after that year, the names of both Mrs. Cady and Mrs. Cook disappeared from mention in surviving records and it's believed they did not return to live in Winter Park.

Evaline Lamson, 30, lived with her mother and assisted with managing the boarding/rooming house the family ran. She had come to Winter Park that year with her mother, brother Arthur and possibly a second brother. She was to become a driving force behind the library's survival and for several years served simultaneously as librarian for the town library and the one at Rollins College.

THE BIRTHING PROCESS

Having decided to create a town library, the most crucial decision for the women was not how to get the necessary books, after all they had been circulating books among themselves for some time, but where to base their new venture.

The porch and hall of the Lamson house were offered as the site, along with the services of Arthur Lamson to build a set of bookshelves.

The library operated Wednesdays and Saturdays from January to May. Records for the year 1887 give some insight into what was being read that year.

The new library had on its shelves such titles as the *Scarlet Letter*, *The Last Days of Pompeii*, *Jane Eyre*, *Ivanhoe*, and *The Rise of Silas Lapham*. There were also biographies such as Frederick the Great and religious titles such as *Grace and Truth*, *The Blood of Jesus*, *Thoughts On Personal Religion*, and *Scientific Theism*. Some titles indicate that the craving for purple prose is nothing new. More than one hundred years ago satisfaction was found in books with direct titles such as: *Janet's Repentance*, *The Disowned*, *Sister's Secret*, *Living or Dead*, and *A Bachelor's Plunder*.

The rules then were simple and also in keeping with the fact the library did not have a large inventory. Members could take out one book on Wednesday and Saturday and keep it for two weeks, with a one-week renewal. There was a 10 cent fine for non-renewal. Those who were not library members could take out books if they paid a S1 deposit plus 10 cents for each week.

One year after the library's founding, as recorded in the minutes of the annual meeting held on December 16, 1886, its officers accepted an offer to move its operations from Miss Lamson's porch to a room in the building occupied by the Winter Park Company on the southwest corner of New England and Park Avenues.

In 1888 the Circulating Library Association got around to writing a constitution. Among its provisions was one that said any person could become a member by paying $1 per year. It also defined the office of Solicitor.an apt title for the person whose duty it was to solicit subscriptions and funds for the library.

The idea must have been popular. There were three meetings for discussion and proposals, attended by as many as fifteen persons, and all articles were accepted. A petition was submitted to the trustees of Francis Knowles' estate asking for land on which to erect a library building.

During his lifetime Knowles had been a major benefactor to the town. But, when the annual meeting convened on December 6, 1894 it was to receive the news that the petition had been denied. The proposed merger was dropped and no further mention is found in records from that period. What was at first viewed as a setback, in fact freed both institutions to develop individually.

THE GREAT FREEZE

In 1894 the economy of Winter Park depended on two things - citrus and the winter visitors. Both required mild temperatures to prosper. According to *The History of Orlando* by Eve Bacon, the temperature dropped to 24 degrees the Sunday after Christmas Day 1894. Soon afterward warm weather returned and citrus growers took comfort in the thought that the fruit might be lost but the trees had survived.

The warm weather lasted long enough for the trees to begin to bud and then, on February 7, 1895, even colder temperatures descended all the way to the Florida Keys where thermometers registered 17 degrees. The trees were killed and potential visitors to the area, hearing news of the record cold, decided not to visit.

The blow to the area's economy did not leave the library unscathed. At the December 1895 annual meeting the treasurer's report showed a balance of $8.60. The feasibility of closing the library on Wednesdays was discussed but it was decided to continue.

Despite the drop in the library's income, the overall grimness of the time gave it an unexpected boost. Its book inventory rose to 1,058. Possibly some of those books were gifts donated by families moving from the area.

Rapid growth was followed by rapid decline and then stagnation. In 1894 the Winter Park population had risen to 658 but by 1900 it stood at only 638.

However, the advent of some new residents into the town, such as the wealthy Edward and Eda Brewer, gave fresh life to the library. A $100 gift from an anonymous donor in 1896 enabled the library to buy books and the collection increased to 1,175. Still, times were difficult. In her librarian's report, Miss Lamson wrote that "believing that other enterprises in our place were in greater need of present help than the library, no entertainments were planned and no special effort put forth for raising funds."

Records of the annual meeting in 1887 showed only 20 people could afford the $1 annual dues, the collection had grown by only 11 books that year and circulation was down.

Even so, one thing discussed then was the possibility of a new library building. Even during hard times there were still dreams.

ENTER THE 20TH CENTURY

On January 31, 1900, President Comstock called a special meeting to consider a building and lot for the library. It was agreed that $50 would go to the building fund provided enough money came from a Valentine's party scheduled for February 14 at The Palms, the new home of Edward and Eda Brewer on the shore of Lake Osceola.

Proceeds of that fund-raiser amounted to $130.75 and the association moved ahead with its plans. The Knowles Estate, at last, donated property on Interlachen Avenue for the new building site.

Discussion of what should be included in the new building effectively set the library's policy for years to come because it was decided to include a children's department. By that December Eda Brewer was able to present building plans drawn by George D. Rand, a Boston architect.

The subscription list for the building fund shows that 24 individuals pledged a total of $1,216 toward the effort. On February 7, 1901 the building committee contracted to build a public library, 24 by 50 feet in size, at a cost of $1600. The library's books, now numbering almost 1,300, were moved into the building the last week of April.

Photographs of the new library show a small, white, clapboard building with a three-columned portico over the front door and twin three-paneled windows on either side. It sat well back from Interlachen Avenue behind its own wooden fence. Indoor plumbing was not part of the original design and, in the absence of modern insulation, complaints about heat in the summer and cold in the winter are recorded aspects of its history. It was one room, heated by open fireplaces situated one at each end of the room.

With the new building came expanded library hours. In addition to the Wednesday and Saturday hours it had kept since its founding, it was decided to open from 3 to 5 p.m. each day from January 15 to March 15. The owner of the Seminole Hotel guaranteed the money to pay a librarian to work the additional hours.

Fundraising was also a renewed concern. The decision was made to hold an afternoon tea each Wednesday to raise funds and also to petition the town council for $7.46 to build a sidewalk in front of the library.

So began a fundraising combination that still exists today - outreach to the public and a financial commitment from the city government.

CHANGES

The death in June 1902 of Eleanora Comstock who, with her husband, had been a resident since 1877, signaled another change for the library. As association president she had been particularly interested in encouraging children to use the library and, in her memory, her husband gave $1,000 to endow the Children's Corner. It was named the Eleanora Comstock Corner.

Another significant event to occur that year was on the night of September 18. The Seminole Hotel was destroyed by fire. The hotel had been a great source of revenue for the town. In its first season, it had attracted 2,300 guests in three months and had to turn more away. The business generated by its clientele was so good the merchants of Park Avenue were able to simply close shop in the summer. And, it was also a good source of seasonal work.

However, nothing about the effects of this event showed up in the minutes of the Association's annual meeting. Instead, at its December 10 meeting Dr. William F. Blackman - who in April 1903 was installed as the new president of Rollins College - was elected president of the Association. He would hold that office for the next 16 years.

The fortunes of the Association began to rebound under the leadership of Blackman and, later, with Charles Hosmer Morse taking over the duties of the town's primary property owner. Although he had been visiting the town since 1883, in 1904 Morse bought the remainder of the Knowles Estate's properties and proceeded to invest money in revitalizing orange groves neglected since the freeze and establishing new groves.

In her librarian's report for 1905, Evaline Lamson said: "It has been a year, not of building and finishing, but of enjoying the things worked for in former years."

In 1909, following her marriage to C. L. Smith, Evaline Lamson Smith retired as librarian after serving in that capacity almost continuously since 1887. Katherine Litch was then hired as the first salaried librarian. She was paid $75 per year but only, apparently, whenever the Executive Committee had the cash.

Prosperity was beginning to reappear, due partly to Mr. Morse's efforts in revitalizing the local citrus industry and also because of the construction of a new, elegant Seminole Hotel in 1912. In 1914 the town council agreed to provide free electricity to the library building. Mr. Morse donated $500 to add a kitchen wing to the library in 1914 and the city council was also asked to supply water to the kitchen and grounds.

The availability of a kitchen inspired the ladies of the library to continue a series of teas, fundraising socials and other events of interest to potential patrons. In later years these became a staple of the city's social season.

In 1924 two new wings and a lavatory were added to the building which, in effect, doubled in size. In 1927 two librarians worked on a year-round basis, with summer vacation, at salaries of $50 per month.

In 1928, as the Florida land boom faded, Central Florida was hit by the advent of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly. Eradication and quarantine measures resulted in the destruction of more than 500,000 boxes of infected fruit and growers were not reimbursed for the loss.

More and more money worries began to plague the library. In 1930 the city council had agreed to give the library $1,000 a year but that was cut to $500 in 1932. Also, in 1930, the bank that held the library's accounts, the Bank of Winter Park, failed. An appeal for funds was sent out to members of the library's Executive Committee who were at their summer homes in the north.

The appeals bore fruit and by 1932 the librarians were able to report that new books had been gifted to the library and circulation was up. The board felt confident enough to raise the head librarian's salary to $65 a month.

SOMETHING TO CONSIDER

The picture thus far is of a group of people dedicated to the idea of a lending library. But it was also a somewhat exclusive group that many residents apparently chose not to join. Of the just over 100 names of white town residents, drawn up by Ray A. Trovillion in 1968 to show his recollection of what the town was like in 1908, only 17 appear to have been consistently involved with the library.

It is important to remember that the library, at this time, exclusively served white townspeople. It is that factor that would lead in mid-1937 to a separate library being founded in the heart of the black residential community.

But, the change from private club to public library actually took place in the 1930s and during World War II when a large community of military servicemen and their families used the library extensively.

1945-1960

In 1945, Winter Park was a town of 5,586 whose city limits extended to Lakemont Avenue on the east, Orlando Avenue on the west, roughly to present-day Lake Sue Avenue on the south, and to its current northern boundaries. "Demobilization" was the current buzz word. The Sanford Naval Air Station and the Army Air Base on Lakemont were closed and young men returned to civilian life, but not always to their hometowns. Returning veterans added to the city's growth.

In August 1945 the *Winter Park Herald* newspaper noted that there was much building during the month of July and that the $134,000 spent on building permits was a record for any month since March 1931.

At the Library the hours were now 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, Saturdays 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from September 1 to June 30. During the summer, when conditions in the library were probably unbearably hot, the hours were 10 a.m. to noon and 4 to 6 p.m. for six days. Almost everything in the city closed on Wednesday afternoons.

The library then had a collection numbering 12,269 and a circulation of 33,214.

During those years people were reading books such as: *Forever Amber*, *Hobson's Gentlemen's Agreement*, *The Egg and I*, *Why They Behave Like Russians*, *The Great Rehearsal*, *A Light in the Window*, and *Always Murder A Friend.*

It was also apparent to everyone that the library had outgrown its home. Growth and the demand for services, especially for the Children's Department, made it imperative that the library keep pace with the community.

In 1946, a major change in the library charter was proposed. It required trustees to serve three-year terms, with the terms staggered so that three of the nine seats would be elected each year. The mayor's ex- officio position on the board was officially recognized and the bylaws changed to provide for a regular schedule of meetings.

The proposal was for the board to meet the second Wednesday of March, June, September and December but it took them awhile to get into the new pattern of things. They instead met, for example, twice in March of 1947, once in April and once in November. At the annual meeting of 1947 the new provision was ratified and one new member was elected to the board, bringing the number to nine.

The immediate benefit of the new provision was that it brought new ideas and increased community participation at a time when both were of increasing importance.

A new head librarian was appointed in 1948, Charlotte Moughton, who quickly went to work to try and reduce the over-crowded conditions inside the library. She spent the summer of 1949 cleaning out the work room, mending and re-marking several hundred books while still maintaining regular services and the Vacation Reading Club.

In her first librarian's report she outlined six goals for the library. They included resuming a regular story time for children, a new lighting system, a new encyclopedia set, a new system of charging books, a good pamphlet and information file, and a new building.

Many of her suggestions were adopted within a year. New reference books were purchased, volunteers found for the children's story hour and $1,800 received from the city commission for badly needed repairs and alterations. In the fall of 1950, new shelves were added in every room, additional electrical wiring installed so lamps could be placed in dark corners and a new exterior door was added to the building's south end for easy access to the Children's Department.

These improvements, along with repairs to the roof, a new awning, a new coat of paint inside and out, and a new sign, were as close to a new library as they would get for another five years. Instead, the townspeople were consumed with another project, that of building a community hospital.

The efforts at the library therefore went into improving service and attracting new members. The children's story hour was maintained with the help of volunteers, some of them from Rollins College. The Vacation Reading Club was under the personal supervision of the Children's Librarian, Helen Foley Fuller. Each year she came up with a different theme to pique the imagination of young readers.

The theme in 1950 was Treasure Island; in 1951 it was a Circus Club; in 1952, a rodeo and the Toggery clothing store donated a mannequin dressed in western gear. In 1953 readers were Rocket Jockeys, while in 1954 they sailed the Seven Seas, and in 1955 went Undersea with Wilbur the mannequin making a return appearance togged out in snorkeling gear. It was time to stimulate Indians in 1957, and 1958 saw the orbit of Booknik.

The library continued to serve as the school library for the Winter Park Elementary School. However, during the early 1950's the consistent theme was the library building.either lack of space in, need for repairs to, or hoped-for replacement of.

Charlotte Moughton lobbied the board in each of her librarian's report and perhaps lobbied others as well. In 1951, when the new Mills Memorial Library at Rollins was dedicated, an editorial in the Herald newspaper commented that "It would be a tribute to the spirit of Winter Park if in the near future friends of the public library could similarly bring about.a much needed new library building."

On February 17, 1955, one month after the new hospital opened, a meeting of the library board was called to consider building plans. It had already been decided that the building plan could begin with one room and that the building plan could begin with one room and that a children's room would be feasible. The cost was estimated at $12,500 and the board, under President Mary Brownlee Wattles, approved the plan.

A fundraising letter was sent out stating that a new building was badly needed. "The present frame building is outdated, overcrowded, and a fire hazard," it said in part.

By January of 1956, with the newspaper featuring new city growth records for 1955, the board first viewed plans for the Children's Room. Constructed of concrete block with aluminum windows, it was as modern as the old building was quaint. Bids were opened in mid-March and Allen Trovillion's bid of $9,490 was accepted. On November 1 the public was invited to the library for an all-day Open House to see the freshly completed Children's Room.

In January 1957 work began on the central section, built across the front of the old library, facing Interlachen. Despite an anonymous $10,000 donation, fundraising demanded a lot of attention throughout 1957. The new section was completed in August-September that year. The push was then on to raise money for the final phase.

The Winter Park Jaycees conducted a 10-month campaign to raise money for the library. They began with a doorbell-ringing campaign, in early October 1957, which raised $13,000. By December 1957, $25,000 of the $75,000 needed for the project had been raised. By May $55,000 had been raised and books were moved out of the old building later that month.

The completion of the new library building was celebrated on March 20, 1959. Under the vigorous leadership of Mary Brownlee Wattles, the total $130,000 cost of the new facility had been raised entirely through donations from the community. The new building, fully air-conditioned with mint-green walls and terazzo floors, also had a walled garden established by the Winter Park Garden Club.

THE FRIENDS

As the library prepared to move into a new decade, librarian Charlotte Moughton had taken steps to cement its roots within the community. With her encouragement, a meeting was called on February 28, 1958, to organize a Friends of the Library Association. More than 150 charter members signed their names, paid 41 annual dues, and elected Clinton J. Ruch as their first president.

The first activity of the Association was apparently to promote the library as a forum for discussion and literary information. Their first sponsored program was a review of Boris Pasternak's *Dr. Zhivago*. It attracted 300 people and was an indication of how the group kept apace with the times for the discussion took place before Pasternak was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

One of the first topics addressed in a series by the discussion group was the Middle East and, in 1963, Betty Friedan's *The Feminine Mystique* was the subject of a review.

The Friends also began mailing a newsletter to publicize their book reviews and their monthly current events program as well as library services and new books. As the group expanded it began to perform other tasks such as providing volunteer services and donations of equipment and money.

By February 1960, one year after the new library was opened, circulation had risen from 90,842 in 1959 to 108, 659. The city also agreed to increase its appropriation to the library which helped it to expand its hours and place on-hire three full-time employees, one part- time and two high school pages.

THE ORDERLY 60'S

The decade of the 60's, at least where the library was concerned, was characterized by orderly growth. The city's population grew from 17,162 in 1960 to 21,895 in 1970 and the library, in an effort to keep pace, increased its staff from three to nine while its budget went from $26,300 to $57,975. Circulation rose to 181,206 in 1969.

Probably the most exotic item to appear at the library during that decade was a set of two electric charging machines. Each one stamped the borrower's identification number on the book's identification card. This modernization method required a lot of effort to implement - each patron had to be re-registered and issued new cards - but created a more efficient system for the library's staff.

As part of its responsibility to the community, the board made a concerted effort to keep its finances on a businesslike level. Board member and accountant Lynn Pflug undertook the major task of reconstructing a financial history of the library from March of 1950 to October 31, 1961, and thereafter submitted monthly financial statements to the president, finance committee chairman and librarian.

The board also approved a statement that any funds derived from legacies would be used for investment, not for operating costs, thereby building the library's endowment.

THE HANNIBAL SQUARE LIBRARY

The Hannibal Square Library had been in operation since 1937, when it was founded by Dr. Edwin O. Grover of Rollins, in memory of his wife who had been an activist in the cause of education for the black community. It had also functioned as an independent library for many years, appealing to its community and friends for funds.

In the 1950s it began receiving regular appropriations from the city, though on a smaller scale than that received by the Winter Park Public Library. In 1955 it completed its own Children's Room addition.

The library was popular with children and local organizations used it for evening meetings. Neighbors maintained the grounds and donated and planted shrubbery and flowers to beautify it.

The Board of Directors of the Hannibal Square Library was composed of black and white residents.

In 1962 and 1963 the Board of the Winter Park Public Library adopted policy statements to provide library service to the residents of Winter Park, irrespective of age, race, creed, color or financial situation.

In November 1967, then city manager James Harris wrote a letter to the heads of the two libraries boards, asking that they consider the possibility of combining the two as a main library and a branch. "The city is not attempting to decrease the amount of its budget for library support, but we are interested in the possibility of making one contribution which would provide the greatest possible return to our citizens," Harris said.

At a January 18, 1968 meeting of representatives of both libraries, a letter was read stating that the citizens of the black community did not oppose the merger but did want to keep a library in the neighborhood. At that time the librarian for the Hannibal Square Library was Mildred Carter and it was open three mornings and four afternoons a week.

At the meetings it was decided to maintain the Hannibal Square Library and that two of its board members should serve on a board overseeing both libraries.

ONWARD TO 100 YEARS

The Winter Park Public Library opened the 70's with the dedication of the Mary Brownlee Wattles Wing on February 17, 1970. Again, the problem of space was of utmost concern to board members and library patrons alike. The need was urgent enough that the board voted to use funds in the equipment and maintenance fund to begin construction even before undertaking a successful fund-raising drive in the fall of 1969.

The new wing contained a meeting room, which was available to civic groups as well as an expanded reference area and storage room. The cost this time was $32,000.

The space crunch for library materials was more than matched by the parking crunch outside. The library had only thirteen parking spaces and regularly discussed sharing parking with the neighboring All Saints Church.

In March 1974 the board discussed building another addition to the library. This time the suggestion was to add a second floor for a librarian's office and work space. A study committee was appointed. The matter was again discussed in March 1975 but, in May, another possibility was presented by board President Rachel D. Murrah. Discussions began in earnest about building an entirely new facility at another location.

Realizing that such a project would be larger than ever contemplated, the board decided to move cautiously. It was November before a five-member expansion committee was appointed to research library needs and its future ability to serve its community. Events then began to move rapidly. The expansion committee's report, given in January 1976, discussed the need for more parking - which was impossible at the current site - the need for more shelf space and the unlikely prospect of being able to expand the building.

The board then approached the city to buy a 1.5-acre parcel of land, at New England and Chase Avenues, that had been identified as a choice location for the new library.

On March 9 the city commission appropriated $9,000 to buy an option on the property and gave the board until October to develop preliminary plans, locate funding and devise procedures for accomplishing a large project.

The first task was to canvass city residents for contributions to a building fund. Each board member was assigned a list of people to contact.

By May they had raised almost $70,000 and in September 1976 the city purchased the property for $300,000.

Also in 1976, there was a Federal program of grants to communities to begin new construction and create jobs. The library, which had architectural plans and specifications ready, asked the city to submit them as part of its request to the Federal Government. The application was submitted in October 1976 but, in early 1977, word came that it had been denied.

Shoving disappointment aside, however, the building committee kept up its search for a funding source. One was desperately needed because the new library was expected to cost $900,000. In July, 1977 it was announced that the Federal Government had appropriated more funds for its program and would give the city a $2.7 million grant. The library received $945,000 of that for construction of its new building.

Ground was broken December 4, 1977, and construction took 14 months.

On October 22, 1978, Charlotte Moughton Brunoehler died. She had come to Winter Park 30 years before to take over the operations of a small community library and had overseen its growth and, indeed, pushed for it. It was agreed that the reference room in the new library be established in Charlotte's memory.

In 1979 the Hannibal Square Library was closed due to a decline in circulation and the building and grounds were returned to the city's council.

In February 1979 the move was made to the new library at 460 E. New England Avenue. It had nearly twice the square footage of the Interlachen building and sixty-five parking spaces instead of thirteen. The formal dedication was held April 20, 1979, and in June the old library building was sold to the All Saints Church. The proceeds, $218,000, were equally divided with the city to help defray the cost of the original land purchase.

The library's efforts did not go unnoticed. The Florida Library Association presented its Trustees and Friends Library Award in 1979 to Rachel D. Murrah for her efforts for her efforts in bringing the project to fruition.

The new building was both an accomplishment and a challenge. The larger materials collection required a larger staff and the larger building required additional maintenance. Although the city gave $180,000 to the library's budget in 1980 the total library budget was $221,000. Fundraising became a fine art.

NOW THE TALE IS TOLD

The library, ineligible for funding from the state, continued to rely on its strong ties to the community for support. Income, which in 1885 had begun with memberships, fines and gifts of cash and books, evolved by 1985 into city support, income from investments, gifts, non-resident fees, rentals of books and meeting rooms, an annual fund-raiser, book sales, and fees for photocopy services.

The relationship between the library and the city commission became more clearly defined during the early 1980s. (Although the city owns the library building, it is leased for $1 a year to the Winter Park Library Association. The city contributes to the library's budget and the association supplements that with funds raised within the community.)

The board voted to make the commissioner serving as representative to the board a full voting member. In turn, the library was asked to display the Best of Show award winners from the annual Winter Park Sidewalk Art Festival. In the fall of 1980, the library's Community Room began to be used as an election polling site.

To celebrate its Centennial year, the Board of Trustees agreed to publish a Centennial Calendar, featuring advertising art from the citrus industry. To accompany the calendar, a special exhibit was mounted at the Cornell Fine Arts Gallery, at Rollins, to display citrus industry and library memorabilia. The calendar was given to each card-holding family and additional copies were sold.

ALL AROUND THE LIBRARY was the theme for the Centennial Birthday Party and Picnic held December 14, 1985 on the library grounds.

Carolers mingled with the crowd, and birthday cake and hot dogs were available to the many enjoying the legacy created by a few women 100 years before.

On that day in 1985, with the sun warming the red bricks and glinting off the plate-glass windows of the imposing two-story building, there was little to indicate its humble beginnings on Miss Lamson's porch or simple ambitions voiced so long ago.

In 1885, a group of women gathered in a room warmed by a log fire and debated the creation of an institution to help civilize an outpost carved from lands which still bore the images of its first inhabitants, the Seminole Indians.

Hooker, Lamson, Cady, McClure, Guild, Ladd, Clark, Cook and Brown. . .women of ideas with tenacity. The lending library that they helped found and nurture continues today with much the same spirit of volunteerism supported by community donations. Their legacy stands as proof of the real need and desire that they saw in a small Florida outpost called Winter Park, all those years ago.

THANK YOU

At the beginning of the library's Second Century, its Board recognized the need for additional financial support from the community and began seeking bequests for its endowment fund and grants for special items.

By far the largest bequest received came in early 1989 from the Estate of Joanne Woolley, the granddaughter of Edward and Eda Brewer. It has helped significantly to enhance the library's fiction and reference collections. Other bequests have also helped the library to keep increased costs from being passed on to the public at large. Notable grants have been received from Philip and Peggy Crosby through the Crossroads Foundation, the Chesley G. Magruder Foundation, Inc., the Whiting Foundation, A. Friend's Foundation Trust, and the Sarah B.

Galloway Foundation. Matching funds were received from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Another significant matching gift was received from a local resident who wishes to remain anonymous.

A former Trustee, Virginia Nelson, continues to give an important monetary gift to the library each year.

Special thanks go to loyal annual donors and to the dedicated Friends of the Winter Park Public Library.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Winter Park Public Library provides the materials, services and facility necessary to meet the current and future informational and recreational reading needs of Winter Park's residents. Special emphasis is placed on offering popular materials, and reference materials and services. Resources for independent learning, as well as current and historic local information are also important. Materials and services appropriate to all ages, including preschoolers, are available. In addition to print media, the library collections may include non-print and electronic media. Mutually beneficial, cooperative agreements, which lead to improved library services for the community by avoiding duplication, will be initiated by the library with other area libraries and institutions.

ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1885-88	ElizabethHooker

1888	Mrs. Paul
1890-92	Elizabeth Hooker
1893	Mrs. Ford
1894	Mrs. Baker
1895-96	Mrs. Ford
1897-1902	Ella K. Comstock
1902-17	W.F. Blackman
1918-25	Evaline Lamson Smith
1926	Eda H. Brewer
1927-29	Edward W. Packard
1929-35	Richard Wright
1935-44	H.M. Sinclair
1945-48	George Woodbury
1948-55	Herbert Hirshberg
1955-65	Mary Brownlee Wattles
1965-70	Kenneth Wacker
1970-73	Herman Gade
1973-76	Francis Jackson
1976-79	Rachel D. Murrah

1979-80	Fred Hicks
1980-81	Alan Price
1981-83	Clifford Hames
1983-85	Alan Price
1985-86	John Fleming
1986-88	Polly Seymour
1988-89	Rachel D. Murrah

HEAD LIBRARIANS & DIRECTORS

1885-86	Mrs. W.O. Cady
1887-91	Evaline Lamson
1892	Mrs. P. Barrows
1893-1908	Evaline Lamson
1909	Evaline Lamson Smith
1909-18	Katherine Litch
1921-24	Elizabeth Merriwether
1924-30	Inez Bellows
1930-37	Verna H Goodwin and Trixie Vincent
1937-42	Marie-Lousie Sterrett

1942-43	Winifred Herron
1943-45	Hazel Sawyer
1946-48	Margaret Teague Farrar
1948-79	Charlotte Moughton Brunoehler
1979-87	Wendy Kay Robuck Breeden, Director
1987-Present	Robert Melanson, Director

Resource material for "From Miss Lamson's Porch" was obtained from a complete record of library association minutes, old newspapers and scrapbooks, interviews with appropriate parties, and local history memorabilia in the Winter Park Public Library and the Olin Library of Rollins College.

Funds for the publication of the booklet were derived from the sale of the Library Centennial Calendar and a generous donation from the Friends of the Winter Park Public Library.

Technical assistance was provided by Nathalia B. Brodie, Margaret Duer, Eleanor Y. Fisher and Rachel D. Murrah.

Zephyrhills Library

1964 - 1989

By: Donalda Kelly, Librarian

Written at the new city library next to City Hall, 603 8th St.

The old library was given to the city in 1964 and the city built a 2,400 sq. ft. building with new shelving and equipment, all the books were moved over.

Elsie Parks died the summer that the move was made. Edith Aldrich was librarian from then until she retired, and I have been librarian since 1996.

1980 The library was open 22 hours a week until 1980, when the library changed to 43 hours a week.

1981 In 1981 Pasco County started a County Library System. The city voted not to join, so Pasco County withheld funds that they have been giving the library for a number of years. Therefore, the library has been charging county residents a user fee if they don't own or rent property in the city limits.

1981 In May 1981, the library moved into its new addition. The building fund was started in 1976 by $24,000 from Wilbur & Helen Warden, Private donations and with the city giving $12,000 to bring construction cost to $57,000. The Library had a equipment fund which was started in 1980 and 1981 - the library raised $8,000.

1988 In spring of 1988 the library's street numbers were changed to 5347 8th Street.

1989 In 1989 the library added handicapped bathrooms, landscaped the exterior and had an overall paint job. The library, at this point, spring of 1989, has 4,176 ft. in net area, 2916 ft. in shelving, 31,000 books, and 1,587 family cards issued.

1989 - 1998

By: Kathleen D. Burnside, Librarian

5347 8th Street

1989 May 22, the City dropped the county user fee. As requested by the Library Board Chairman, a library expansion account was established with a $5,000 bequeath from Jessie Summer.

Architect, Mr. Cook was hired for $2,000. A survey elevation study was made and Mr. Cook presented several schematic site plans. The expansion was tabled, due to funds.

Request was granted by the Library Board Chairman that money taken in from gifts and memorial purchases be put back into the book budget.

1990 Kathleen Burnside and Maryann Wallis were required to work 30 hours per week in order to receive group health insurance.

Kathleen Burnside was promoted from cataloguer to Assistant Librarian.

1991 March 7, the Library Board held a Recognition Tea for the volunteers of the Library.

Nancy Vannoy volunteered to clip out library news from 1960-1990 newspapers and put them into a scrapbook.

1992 October, Kathleen Burnside and Maryann Wallis were made full-time employees adding 20 more hours to the operation of the library.May, Kathy Willis, local author, had a signing of her new book "Tropical Thunder" at the library.

The county library opened. The Library's circulation was getting so high (94,000), the staff was over run. Now, there is more time for customer service.

1993 Ryman Construction's bid of $19,650 was accepted for a new pitched metal roof. The old flat roof had many leaks.

The Zephyrhills Rotary Club presented the Library with an Apple computer to be used by the District School Board of Pasco County Reading Assistance Program.

The parking lot was paved. Nine parking spaces are available.

Kathleen Burnside was given a Certificate of Excellence and a cash gift from the Zephyrhills Rotary Club for her performance as Assistant Librarian.

The estate of Paul A. Dickinson was settled and $3,238.04 was deposited into the building fund.

The Zephyrhills Art Club held a painting exhibit in March. Their displays were set up on the outside grounds.

The Children's Story Hour was canceled in November due to poor attendance. Oletha Brownell had volunteered her talents since October 1987.

The Interact Club, through the efforts of Board member Mr. Milo Van Hall, began a Children's Story Hour in December. Interact Club member Audrey Hudacik continued this community service through month of May. Attendance was not sufficient to continue the next school year.

1994 December - All proceeds ($754) from the Garden Gate Circle of the Zephyrhills Garden Club luncheon were used to landscape the grounds of the library. City crews provided the labor and constructed a pavel walkway from the parking lot to the library's front entrance.

Kathleen Burnside is enrolled in the University of Wisconsin School of Library and Information Studies.

In December, the album collection started in 1988, by the late Bernard

Wickstrom, was reduced to two sections (holiday and marches) because of poor circulation. Over 300 albums were given to Goodwill. Now, the two stands are filled with a video and cassette collection.

Keeps Carpet's bid of $13, 270.00 was accepted for 450 yards of carpet. The Library was closed four working days in June. The staff was on hand to move most of the books before and after the installation.

Keeps Carpet installed new tile in the public bathrooms. The cost was $289.

1995 A new copy machine was purchased for $1,705. Statewide Cabinets donated $100 towards the purchase price of $206.68 for a custom made mobile cabinet.

1996 The Library is now in the process of having the 1911 - 1956 editions of the Zephyrhills News put on microfilm at an estimated cost of $700.

Kathleen Burnside volunteered, on her day, for seven weeks in Ms. Mary Johnson's second grade class at Woodland Elementary School, for the Junior Achievement program.

$2,000 was donated by Mr. And Mrs. William and Marie Trucker and was deposited into the Library Expansion Fund.

1997 The estate of Elsie Till bequeathed $1,775.72 to the Library and this was deposited into the Library Expansion Fund.

The Library purchased a microfilm/fiche printer/reader for $5,196. The Library expanded the children's picture books by inserting six divided shelves into an open-face cabinet. The shelves cost $306.

Photee's bid of $2,355.30 was accepted for a computer with Window 95 and a HP printer. The computer will be hooked up to the Internet and made available to the public in the summer.

The Library started a book leasing agreement with Baker & Taylor Books. Donalda B. Kelly, Librarian, received a 30-year Service Award and Kathleen D. Burnside, Assistant Librarian, received a 20-year Service Award at the October 14th City Council meeting.

The City Council adopted a revised employee manual and Martin Luther King's Day was added as a City holiday.

Donalda B. Kelly, Librarian had respiratory problems while on her vacation in September. She was in the hospital for ten days. She retired October 29, 1997, after 31 years of service.

Kathleen D. Burnside, Assistant Liberian, was promoted to Librarian October 30.

Ryman Construction was awarded the bid for the replacement of the two porch canopies. The two new canopies will have a pitched roof. The bid was for $5,775.

Vicki Elkins was hired as Staff Assistant in November.

The Library staff designed a new brochure. This brochure contains information about the Library, staff, Advisory Board and City Council.

The Library staff, City employees, Council members, Advisory Board, family and friends were in attendance at the Library December 23 for the unveiling of retired librarian Donalda Kelly's portrait and the presentation of a Certificate of Service to Mrs. Kelly from the Library Board. Also noted outside the Library were the plaques and landscaping which were provided by City employees in honor of Mrs. Kelly.

1998 The Policy Manual was revised.

An outreach program has started. Each month book deposits are made to Zephyr Haven and Heartland Nursing Homes.

The art classes from Zephyrhills West Elementary, Woodland Elementary and Chester Taylor Elementary Schools each have a window inside the Library to display their artwork throughout the school year.